



University College Dublin

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
SEPTEMBER 2007 – AUGUST 2008



REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
University College Dublin
National University of Ireland, Dublin

September 2007 – August 2008

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“We have made enormous progress in this past year. I believe that we can carry this momentum forward with a mind to achieving so much more in the next Strategic Plan”

Introduction by Dr Hugh Brady, UCD President

Vision

As the current UCD Strategic Plan reaches its conclusion, and as we turn our focus towards the 2009–2013 period, it is appropriate to reflect on achievements to date and our aspirations for the future.

The compelling vision and appropriately ambitious objectives set out in the UCD Strategic Plan 2005–2008 have for the most part come to fruition. We have achieved our stated objective of becoming a leading international research-intensive university that plays a central role in shaping contemporary Ireland.

UCD has never ceased to take up John Henry Newman’s challenge to be “the alma mater of the rising generation”. Over the past 12 months, the university has continued to advance knowledge and foster learning in an atmosphere of discovery, creativity, innovation and excellence, eliciting the very best from our students, and contributing to the social, cultural and economic life of Ireland.

We will now work towards identifying the next set of priorities of the university. The focus in coming years will be on consolidating recent developments, strengthening undergraduate programmes, growing and developing graduate education and improving the links between education and research. If UCD and Ireland are to compete and succeed in this uncompromisingly competitive arena, UCD’s Strategic Plan 2009–2013 must be bolder and more imaginative than ever before.

International repute

The Times Higher Education Supplement (THES) placed UCD in 177th position for 2007, a jump of 42 places from 2006. This climb is due to the

international recognition gained by the new *UCD Horizons* modular curriculum and the striking increase in research activity in both the arts and the sciences.

UCD is justifiably proud of its achievements in developing and implementing a fully modular, semesterised and credit-based undergraduate curriculum – *UCD Horizons* – which is now seen nationally and, increasingly, internationally as a model for student-centred, flexible quality education at undergraduate level. Student numbers for 2007/08 continue to reflect the university’s strategy of attracting the best students from Ireland and elsewhere. In 2007/08, the number of international students representing 116 countries on campus rose to just under 3,600, an increase of approximately 8% from 2006/07.



The figure for CAO first preferences to study at UCD increased by 5.2% in February 2008 and our proportion of high-achieving students who realised over 540 points in the Leaving Certificate increased to 21% of those talented students. Our strategic efforts to increase the numbers of graduate research students are also bearing fruit:

Student ambassadors play a key role in UCD’s strategy of continuing to attract the best students

UCD PhD students now account for 30% of the Irish university PhD community.

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 welcomes students with a disability, mature learners and students from lower socio-economic groups. Students from under-represented groups and non-standard entry routes comprised 14.5% of incoming undergraduate entrants in 2007/08.

Though UCD academics are making great strides in the area of world-class research and attracting funding for this, the university continues to be under-funded in terms of its core grant from public funds. I have campaigned actively, with my fellow university presidents, to address this difficulty. My role as the President of the Irish Universities Association in 2008 has given a real opportunity to pursue this objective and has proved to be both challenging and rewarding.

Research and innovation

UCD continues to build its reputation as a destination of choice for leading researchers, providing an environment in which they can innovate and excel. UCD has had an extremely successful year in the area of research funding. Contracts awarded exceeded €100 million for the first time, with the total value up 19% to €114.7 million. Researchers at NovaUCD submitted 50 invention disclosures last year, representing an increase of 35% on 2006 figures.

Campus Development Plan

UCD has embarked on a wide array of initiatives aimed at establishing Belfield as a vital hub of public engagement with extensive student facilities. Designed by Ingenhoven Architects, the Gateway Project masterplan will underpin the development of an exceptional student experience on the Belfield campus. The redevelopment of the UCD Science Centre will provide a transformational resource for Irish science, and the building of the new UCD Sutherland School of Law will provide our Law students with a state-of-the-art learning environment. We have also actively enhanced wooded areas to form a coherent campus perimeter that boosts the overall quality of life for all living and working on the campus. The Governing Authority's approval

of a comprehensive energy policy and strategy for UCD has significantly reinforced our sustainable campus ambitions. The continued installation of artworks on campus enhances the environment for students, staff and visitors alike.

Universitas 21

UCD hosted the *Universitas 21* AGM in May 2008, welcoming presidents, vice-chancellors and senior managers from 22 of the world's leading universities. A highlight of the week was the *Universitas 21* Symposium, which addressed the topic *Strategic Partnerships with the Developing World: A new direction for Universitas 21 in research and education*. I am proud that UCD has taken the lead in co-ordinating the *Universitas 21* networks' combined efforts in international development studies and will be spearheading a number of major funding applications in support of this work.

Honorary degrees and awards

During the year, UCD honoured a range of people who have made significant contributions to Irish and international life in the fields of business, the arts, medicine, science, journalism, economics, social science, trade unionism and botany. Irish poet Thomas Kinsella was awarded the UCD Ulysses Medal in recognition of his standing as a leading Irish poet.

I am continually impressed by the diversity of people who visit our campus. Over the past year our students and staff got the opportunity to engage with authors such as Jung Chang and JK Rowling, ground-breaking scientists such as Dr James D. Watson, and entertainment figures such as comedian Will Ferrell and actor Ralph Fiennes.



Irish poet Thomas Kinsella was awarded the UCD Ulysses Medal on 16 June 2008

Pictured during the Taoiseach's visit to the UCD campus in April 2008 to attend a conference marking the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Good Friday Agreement (from left): Professor John Coakley, Director, UCD Institute for British-Irish Studies; An Taoiseach Mr Bertie Ahern TD; UCD President Dr Hugh Brady; and Rt Hon Mr Shaun Woodward, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland



Notable mention

I was particularly proud to welcome the then Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern TD, to UCD on 3 April 2008, the day after he announced that he was to resign from his position on 6 May. It was fitting that he visited the campus, amid a clamour of media activity, to deliver the keynote speech at the UCD Institute of British-Irish Studies conference marking the 10th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement.

In my *One to One* interview with RTÉ in July, I reiterated the university's focus on the holistic development of individual students and staff as well as the wider objectives of the university. I am continually encouraged by the interest the public has in UCD and the positive feedback I have received.

Staff

The university's staff members are central to the realisation of our Strategic Plan. Through the continuous development of staff members' skills, alongside the strategic recruitment of new staff, UCD offers its entire community an exceptional environment for teaching, learning, research and personal development.

To provide our students with a quality, world-class learning establishment, UCD recruits academic staff members who are recognised leaders in their respective fields of expertise. UCD is committed to funding and supporting their research work in an open environment.

Conclusion

UCD has benefited greatly during this period from the measured counsel and experience of the Governing Authority and its chair, Kieran McGowan. I am deeply grateful for the guidance and support they offer me and my Senior Management Team in working towards achieving UCD's strategic objectives.

We have made enormous progress in this past year. I believe that we can carry this momentum forward with a mind to achieving so much more in the next Strategic Plan.

Hugh Brady
President

2

A Dynamic Academic Structure

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.

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.

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.



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

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

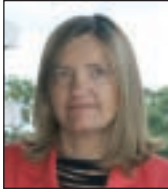
2007/08 was a very successful period for scholars in Human Sciences in obtaining competitive research funding from a variety of prestigious sources. Two scholars in CHS received funding under the European Science Foundation (ESF) EUROCORES initiative. The two projects on 'Multi-level Analysis of Voter 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



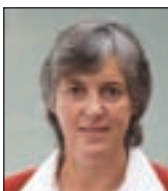
UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems
Head of School
Dr Gerard Fealy



UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science
Head of School
Professor Tom Bolger



UCD School of Physiotherapy and Performance Science
Head of School
Dr Brian Caulfield



UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science
Head of School
Dr Gethin McBean



UCD School of Public Health and Population Science
Head of School
Professor Cecily Kelleher



UCD School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology
Head of School
Professor Earle Waghorne

3

Achieving Excellence in Teaching and Learning

The UCD Strategic Plan 2005–2008 set out a compelling vision and appropriately ambitious objectives in undergraduate and graduate education. As the current UCD Strategic Plan reaches the end of its term and the 2009–2013 period enters planning stage, it is appropriate to reflect on the achievements to date and aspirations for the future.

UCD is justifiably proud of its achievements in developing and implementing a fully modular, semesterised and credit-based undergraduate curriculum – *UCD Horizons* – which is now seen nationally and increasingly internationally as a model for student-centred, flexible, quality education at undergraduate level. UCD is also to the forefront of developments in doctoral education, with the introduction of the UCD Structured PhD and the development of the thematic doctoral programmes.

The focus in coming years will be on consolidating these developments, strengthening undergraduate programmes, growing and developing graduate education and improving the links between education and research.

Student numbers for 2007/08 continue to reflect the university's strategy of attracting the best students from Ireland and beyond, as well as increasing the diversity of intake in areas such as mature, New ERA and international students.

In 2007/08, the number of international students attending UCD rose to 3,600, representing an increase of 8% from the previous academic year



Student Numbers

Modularisation, Semesterisation and UCD Horizons

Student Recruitment and New Programmes

Fourth Level – UCD Graduate Studies

International Activity

Widening Participation

Innovation in Teaching and Learning

Adult Education

Quality

Student Numbers

UCD continues to enjoy and maintain its tradition of a diverse, buoyant student community, with total numbers of students remaining broadly constant into the 2007/08 academic year (see Table 1).

UCD reaffirmed its standing as a Higher Education Institution (HEI) of international repute, enjoying an almost 20% increase in international student numbers during the year. UCD's students come from all over the world: 116 countries are now represented on campus. Table 2 shows the origin and composition of the undergraduate and graduate student body, while Table 3 shows the breakdown of international students by undergraduate (66%) and graduate (34%). UCD's strategic efforts to increase the numbers of graduate research students are also bearing fruit: UCD PhD students now account for 30% of the Irish university PhD community. Table 4 shows the breakdown of students awarded qualifications in 2007/08.

Table 1: Student Numbers 2007/08

Undergraduate Students	Full-time	Part-time	Total
Honours Degree	13,005	628	13,633
Certificate/Diploma	52	1,485	1,537
Exchange Students	286	184	470
Occasional	533	424	957
Total Undergraduate	13,876	2,721	16,597
Postgraduate	Full-time	Part-time	Total
PhD	1,395	158	1,553
Master's Research	311	63	374
Master's Taught	1,607	841	2,448
Certificate/Diploma	540	704	1,244
Total Postgraduate	3,853	1,766	5,619
University Total	17,729	4,487	22,216

Note: UCD delivers a number of programmes off campus, and these are not included in the figures above

Table 2: Student Origin

	Undergraduate	Graduate	Total
Dublin City and County	7,348	2,181	9,529
Rest of Ireland	6,706	2,153	8,859
Northern Ireland	280	51	331
Great Britain	170	132	302
Rest of EU	706	435	1,141
Europe	51	43	94
North America	652	122	774
Asia	509	316	825
Africa	120	149	269
Other	55	37	92
Total	16,597	5,619	22,216

Table 3: International Students

	Undergraduate	Graduate	Total
International*	1,460	1,285	2,745
JYA/Occasional/Exchange	1,083		1,083
Total	2,543	1,285	3,828

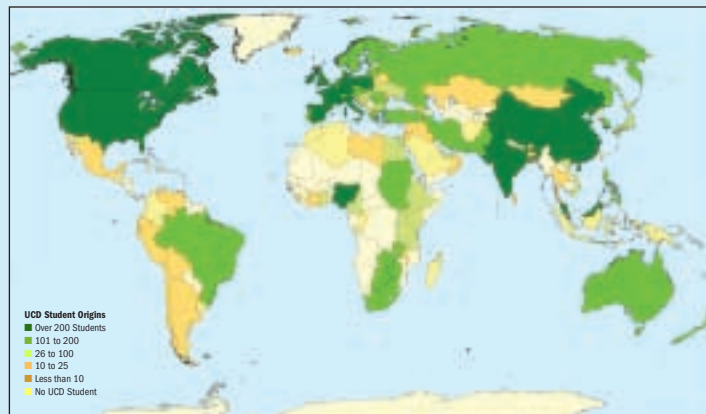
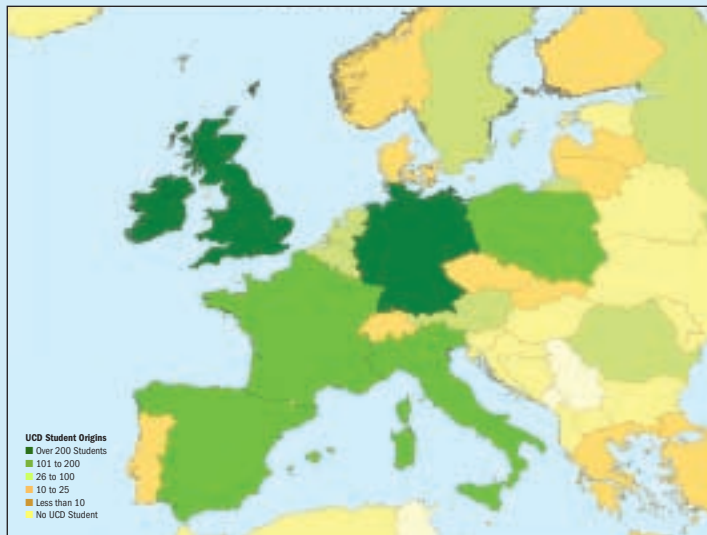
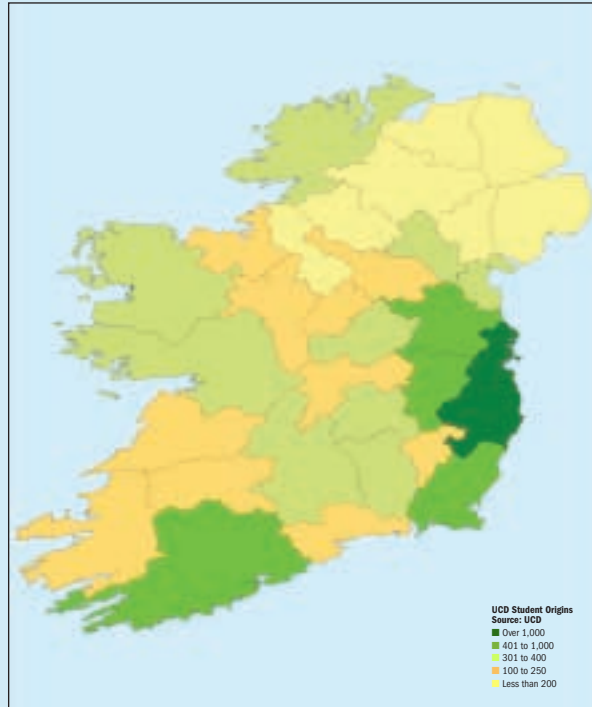
Note: *International is defined as students with domicile from outside the Republic of Ireland and excludes those students on Exchange, JYA or other occasional programmes (these are presented separately)

Table 4: Students Awarded Qualifications in 2007

Undergraduate	Full-time	Part-time	Total
Honours Degree	3,421	557	3,978
Certificate/Diploma	47	1,050	1,097
Total Undergraduate	3,468	1,607	5,075
Postgraduate	Full-time	Part-time	Total
PhD	185	92	277
Master's Research	57	39	96
Master's Taught	1,357	428	1,785
Certificate/Diploma	685	615	1,300
Total Postgraduate	2,284	1,174	3,458
University Total	5,752	2,781	8,533

Note: Figures show those students who were conferred between the dates of 1 Jan and 31 Dec 2007

STUDENT ORIGINS



Modularisation, Semesterisation and *UCD Horizons*

The ambitious objectives of the UCD Strategic Plan 2005–2008 are to:

- Implement a modularised and semesterised curriculum and drive curricular reform at module and programme level;
- Focus on defining the core curriculum and learning outcomes;
- Enrich the student learning experience through the provision of *UCD Horizons* electives.

UCD continues to make strides in embedding the mechanisms and processes to govern and enable the effective management of all programmes — taught and research — while facilitating continued strategic programme development. This extends from undergraduate programmes to thematic doctoral programmes, an area identified as key for development by both the UCD Strategic Plan as well as the government’s Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation (SSTI) 2006–2013.

Progress to date

Almost all of the university’s undergraduate programmes – with some exceptions currently in transition – are fully modularised and semesterised, with learning outcomes expressed at the programme and module level. Schools are collaborating on new and interesting ways of combining different subject areas and are focusing on defining programmes through learning outcomes. New programmes, such as the BSc in Archaeology and Geology, have been established to bring together areas of study for a unique degree.

Student flexibility and academic mobility are supported by how electives are delivered. Students can choose to go ‘deeper’ by taking so-called in-programme electives or go ‘broader’ by taking general elective modules in areas outside their main area of study. Typically, students can choose two electives in a given year in this way, with a variety of approaches taken. Table 1 shows how electives were taken by students in the five Colleges.

Table 1: % of electives taken ‘outside’ the programme

College	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
Arts and Celtic Studies	22%	18%	17%
Business and Law	64%	68%	40%
Engineering, Mathematical and Physical Sciences	57%	64%	61%
Human Sciences	48%	38%	34%
Life Sciences	41%	48%	47%

Interesting year-on-year variations can be seen in student ‘mobility’ – whether they stay in their programme for electives or ‘travel’ to other areas of study. Business and Law students are very ‘mobile’, while the numbers for Arts and Celtic Studies and Science reflect the scope for students to pursue broad interests within their programmes.

Modules in Applied Languages and Psychology were very popular elective choices for students in September 2007 – see Table 2. Policy on the provision of electives was developed and approved in 2007, setting out the general principles maintained by the university on the provision of electives, including how elective ‘blocks’ can be structured within a School or subject area.

Table 2: Most popular elective subjects for Stage 1 students

Subject	Elective Overall	Registrations Outside
Psychology	596	294
Nursing Studies	445	26
Applied Languages	424	424
Philosophy	259	97
Law	212	18
Politics	186	107
Sport Management	185	136
Business Management	174	98
Computer Science	155	37
Economics	148	110

Online registration in 2007 was successful and achieved an overall satisfaction rating of 78% in a start-of-term survey to which 2,600 undergraduates responded – up from 48% in the challenging 2006 registration season. The annual start-of-term survey of students and the annual review of the main registration season play a key role in the university's process of continuous improvement. Close co-operation between UCD Registry and academic and administrative staff is another key factor in developing supports for the modular university.

Achievement in the undergraduate area has been the result of a collaborative process over time between Programme Offices, Programme Boards, Schools and teams within UCD Registry. The University Undergraduate Programme Board (UUPB) has been the main forum for discussion on and governance of curriculum reform and wider programme development issues.

The implementation of modularisation in UCD has had a significant impact on the recording and approval of grades. A working group was established to review the existing process and made recommendations for a revised process that will streamline and improve the current assessment procedures and lead to results being published earlier for students.

The summer 2008 exam session witnessed the largest examination sitting in UCD's history. Some 3,370 students attended an examination sitting on Monday, 12 May 2008 in the RDS.

The Academic Secretariat provided leadership and support across a range of governance initiatives, including a recent collaboration with academic colleagues which involved a complete mapping of UCD's major and non-major award provision to the National Framework of Qualifications.

Student numbers for 2007/08 continue to reflect the university's strategy of attracting the best students from Ireland and elsewhere, as well as increasing the diversity of student intake in areas such as mature, New ERA and international.

Future objectives

- Making modularisation work – responsibility, engagement and simplicity: moving towards a more integrated administration and strengthening the administrative support behind UCD modularisation;
- Simplifying the tools available for curriculum management, making it easier for Schools and programmes to manage their curriculum through a more effective and efficient process;
- Streamlining and improving assessment policy and procedures, and publishing results earlier for students;
- Developing detailed strategy plans for programmes, working towards a re-launch of *UCD Horizons*;
- Fully reviewing current policies and procedures pertaining to repeats, re-sits and the compensation rule in student assessment.

UCD awards 130 entrance scholarships



UCD awarded a total of 130 entrance scholarships to the students across the university who achieved the highest points in their Leaving Certificate. Including the entrance scholars, 537 first-year students entered the ranks of the UCD High Achievers in 2007. Their achievement will be recorded on their degree transcript when they graduate. High achievers are students who score over 540 points in their Leaving Certificate.

UCD awarded entrance scholarships to 130 students in December 2007

Student Recruitment and New Programmes

Clear objectives have been set to ensure that UCD remains the university of choice for the most talented and ambitious students. As part of a co-ordinated recruitment strategy, the university has worked hard to:

- Increase the quality and number of contacts with individual prospective students;
- Increase the quality and level of information available to the individual student and his or her advisers.

Progress to date

Prospective students now have a greater understanding of the opportunities available to them through *UCD Horizons*, and of the unique education that they can receive only at UCD.

They are displaying a strong confidence in choosing to study at UCD, as seen by the 5.2% increase from 2007 in CAO first preferences in February 2008. A successful 'Change of Mind' campaign led to a further increase of 5.8% in May and July 2008. A total of 7,073 students gave UCD their first preference, compared to 6,724 in 2007.

The number of prospective students visiting UCD's campus increased substantially, with over 6,000 secondary-school students and their families attending the Undergraduate Open Days in December 2007. Another 7,000 students received campus tours from the UCD Student Ambassadors throughout the year, as part of the Campus Visits Programme. Additionally, over 400 prospective mature students attended tailored information sessions and campus tours.

There was a major increase in traffic to the UCD website following the launch of MyUCD (www.ucd.ie/myucd), an interactive portal for prospective students to guide them through their contact with the university. UCD is the first university in Ireland to implement such a personalised contact tool. The portal offers a comprehensive database of degree programme information, information on life at UCD and a full listing of admissions events. Students have the opportunity to use the many unique features of the portal, such as requesting literature and booking campus tours. MyUCD replaces the previous *UCD Horizons* site.

UCD has increased its share of high-achieving students, and has increased the quality of communication with them. The UCD Entrance Exhibition Awards were held in November 2007 to recognise the academic achievements of first-

year students who gained 540 points or above in their Leaving Certificate examinations, or equivalent. Some 537 students were presented with the award at a ceremony in O'Reilly Hall. The students represent over 200 schools from 32 counties, as well as schools from other countries. Approximately 4% of more than 63,634 CAO applicants for degree courses attained this achievement, and 21% of this talented group have chosen UCD to pursue their third-level education.

The undergraduate prospectus, *Your Potential Your UCD*, was also redeveloped to mirror the structure of the portal. In particular, the Arts and Science sections of the prospectus now display more information in a format that is consistent with the rest of the publication and that is more beneficial to prospective students.

UCD was also well-represented at large careers and education exhibitions such as Higher Options and FÁS Opportunities, as well as smaller, regional exhibitions.

Future objectives

- The Entrance Exhibition Awards will be opened to all high-achieving first-year students, not just those from the EU;
- The development of MyUCD will continue, with the degree programme webpages restructured to follow the format of the existing Arts and Science pages;
- A Summer School for Irish students who have just completed fifth year in secondary school will take place. This will be offered to prospective students from the 32 counties, and it is hoped that approximately 100 will take part. In particular, the university will be hoping to select students with a good academic record and unique skills and talents, in order to diversify the UCD community.

Fourth Level – UCD Graduate Studies

Graduate education at UCD includes both graduate taught programmes and graduate research programmes. The academic year 2007/08 was a defining year in further establishing the platform for the success of UCD Graduate Studies: the university's Graduate Schools, supported by the Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Training, made significant strides towards growth in both graduate taught and research provision.

UCD is leading the way to Fourth Level Ireland and has the highest number of graduate research students in Ireland. UCD has over 1,500 PhD students spread across the five UCD Graduate Schools. UCD has continued to attract high-quality PhD candidates and is well placed to meet the government's SSTI targets to double the PhD numbers by 2013. The increase in UCD PhD student numbers has been facilitated by the recruitment of students into a number of thematic PhD programmes developed as a result of successful funding of research programmes in the PRTL 4 funding from HEA and also from funding obtained from SFI Strategic Research Clusters (SRCs).

In the region of 6,000 students – over 25% of the total student population in UCD – are graduate students. Of these 6,000 graduate students, approximately 4,000 are reading for a graduate taught award.

Progress to date

UCD actively seeks to make progression from undergraduate to graduate and doctoral education an attractive and viable option for a greater number of students – and ensure a seamless transition between education cycles to make this a reality. UCD offers an extensive suite of graduate taught programmes, with over 230 different graduate programmes ranging from Certificate, to Diploma to Master's awards and geared to the specific interests of students. The university has led the way in Ireland with the introduction and expansion of Structured and Thematic PhD programmes, underpinned by improvements in research supervisory procedures and individual personal development and research skills training for students. The academic year 2007/08 saw more than 20 Thematic PhD programmes established.

During the year, the Research and Development Plan (RPDP) for doctoral students was improved, following the pilot phase development with the UCD Ad Astra Research Scholars in 2006/07. The RPDP was made available to each incoming PhD student in September 2007. New students also availed of opportunities to participate in generic, skills-based modules as part of their doctoral training. These modules included: Core research skills; Project management for researchers; Innovation and knowledge transfer I – Introduction to entrepreneurship; Innovation and knowledge

transfer II – Transferring technology from research to the knowledge economy; and Preparing to teach in a university.

Raising the institutional profile of doctoral education and its function in society was a constant theme during the year. The inaugural Graduate Research Achievements Day, held in October 2007, included a keynote speech from Professor Patrick Cunningham, Chief Scientific Advisor to the Irish Government, on *Guardians of Knowledge, Drivers of Change – Universities Serving Society*. An expert panel, chaired by Dr John Bowman of RTÉ's *Questions and Answers*, then held a discussion on *The Role of Research and PhD Education in the Knowledge Society and Economy*.

Notable achievements

Among the notable achievements during the year was UCD's great success in the Irish Research Council's competition for the development of Graduate Research Education Programmes (GREPs). Of the five GREPs awarded across the university sector, four were led by UCD academics, with UCD a partner in the fifth. This was an outstanding achievement and testament to the value of the UCD structured PhD model. The successful GREPs were: Bioinformatics and Computational Biomedicine; Gender, Culture and Identity; Sustainable Development; Quantitative Social Sciences; and Micro-nano-engineering.

Several thematic PhD programmes have also been developed in research programmes funded under the HEA PRTL Cycle 4 and SFI Strategic Research Clusters.

2007/08 saw the completion of the modularisation of all UCD graduate taught programmes. This achievement now places UCD in an excellent position to clearly maintain its leadership position in graduate education and provides the opportunity to custom-design graduate programmes specifically to the interest of the graduate student. On 5 March 2008, a Graduate Opportunities Day held on campus proved a popular event both for existing UCD undergraduates and others coming from other institutions who showed an interest in finding out more about the UCD graduate experience.

A range of new UCD graduate taught programmes was introduced as follows:

Arts and Celtic Studies Graduate School

- Graduate Diploma in American Studies
- MA in Social and Cultural History of Medicine
- MA in Comparative Literature
- MA in Film Production
- MA in Gender and Writing
- MA in Directing for Theatre
- MA in Creative Writing

Business and Law Graduate School

- Diploma in Advanced Management Business and Executive Coaching
- Graduate Certificate in Innovation and Technology Management
- Graduate Diploma in Law
- MBA in Financial Services/Regulatory and Compliance
- MSc in Business x 4 Streams: e-Business; International Business; Marketing; and Management and Organisation Studies
- Master's in Management



Pictured at the 2008 Graduate Opportunities Day, a prospective graduate student speaks with Dr Porscha Fermanis of the UCD School of English, Drama and Film about opportunities in the UCD Graduate School of Arts and Celtic Studies

Human Sciences Graduate School

- MSocSc in Migration, Race and Ethnicity

Life Sciences Graduate School

- Higher Diploma in Psychotherapy Studies
- Graduate Diploma in Musculoskeletal Medicine
- MSc in Group Analytic Psychotherapy
- MSc in Safety, Health and Welfare at Work
- MSc in Nursing (Advanced Leadership Practice)
- MSc in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy
- MSc in Clinical and Diagnostic Virology
- MSc in Health Systems
- MSc in Child Art Psychotherapy

Future objectives

UCD recognises the value of the three-cycle bachelor's-master's-doctoral framework which is at the centre of the Bologna process. UCD will:

- Develop its strategy to provide clear pathways and expectations from bachelor's to master's and doctoral level, ensuring that UCD becomes a national and international destination of choice for graduate students;
- Use the three-cycle framework to bring clarity to the range of educational opportunities available to prospective students, enabling lifelong learning – including skills acquisition – through a focus on Continuing Professional Development opportunities;
- Drive forward and facilitate inter-institutional collaboration and increase opportunities for international mobility.

International Activity

The main benefits of UCD's internationalisation include diversity and tolerance among its student and academic population, a broader talent pool and exciting overseas research partnerships. In 2007/08, the number of international students attending UCD rose to just under 3,600, an increase of approximately 8% from 2006/07. These students came from 116 countries. There were particularly significant increases in the numbers of students from Canada, China, Germany, India, Italy, Nigeria, Poland, Romania, South Africa, UK and the USA.

Progress to date

Progress towards providing UCD students with stimulating opportunities to study abroad via exchange programmes has continued. In 2007/08, for the first time, there was student mobility between UCD and University of Queensland in Australia; Fudan University, Renmin University and the University of Hong Kong in China; Tec de Monterrey in Mexico; University of Auckland in New Zealand; National University of Singapore; and Connecticut University, San José State University and University of Virginia in the USA. Thirteen new exchange agreements have been established with universities in Australia, Canada, China, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand and the USA, providing a large number of additional exchange opportunities for UCD students at leading universities outside the EU. This is in

addition to new exchange programmes with 11 prominent European institutions via the Erasmus programme. In 2007/08, 269 UCD students spent time abroad as part of the Erasmus programme. A further 93 students participated in outbound non-EU exchanges, an increase of over 25% from the previous year.

In December 2007, UCD hosted a UNESCO-sponsored workshop for eight Iraqi academics. Titled *Training of Trainers in Teacher Education for Sustained Quality Education*, the programme was aimed at contributing to the rebuilding of the Iraqi education system with the assistance of the international community. The workshop provided curriculum review methods, new teaching methodologies and training content design in the field of physics education. The programme was administered jointly by the UCD International Office and the UCD School of Physics.

Recent international students who graduated from the UCD Medicine programme





UCD hosts *Universitas 21* AGM

In May 2008, UCD hosted the *Universitas 21* Annual General Meeting, welcoming 50 presidents, vice-chancellors and senior managers from across the network. A highlight of the week was the *Universitas 21* Symposium, which addressed the topic *Strategic Partnerships with the Developing World: A new direction for Universitas 21 in research and education*. The symposium brought together 150 experts and practitioners in the field of international development, senior university representatives from the *Universitas 21* member institutions, representatives from major international funding bodies such as the Wellcome Trust and the Ford Foundation, and invited speakers to discuss the potential role of universities in contributing to large-scale international development projects. The President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, formally opened the symposium and gave an address on the challenges of international development. As an outcome of the symposium, UCD has taken the lead in co-ordinating the *Universitas 21* networks' combined efforts in international development studies and will be spearheading a number of major funding applications in support of this work. Professor Paul Walsh will be the lead academic on this project with support from Dr Erik Lithander in UCD International.

The Universitas 21 Presidents in Dublin 2008 with Irish President Mary McAleese

UCD's John Hume Institute for Global Irish Studies hosted a workshop on Irish and Diaspora Studies which brought together 20 academics from around the *Universitas 21* network. This was an opportunity for UCD to showcase the work of the John Hume Institute and also take the lead in establishing a dynamic framework for the study of Irish and diaspora studies across the network. Dr Brian Jackson will be leading this initiative on behalf of the network.

The UCD Centre for Study Abroad came into operation in August 2008. The Centre builds on the success and good practice of existing Study Abroad/ Junior Year Abroad programmes in Colleges and Schools and is supporting the co-ordination of incoming Study Abroad opportunities across UCD. It is also providing a high level of service to all of UCD's Study Abroad students and partner institutions. Enda Carroll's appointment as the first Manager of the Centre for Study Abroad was announced at the annual UCD Breakfast at the NAFSA (North American Association of International Educators) Conference, held in Washington DC in May 2008. Advanced discussions are already under way

about broadening the delivery of Study Abroad programmes across UCD's Schools during 2009.

Future developments

The focus for UCD International in the coming academic year will be to work with Schools and Colleges to establish medium-term priorities and targets in the area of international student recruitment. In parallel, enhancing the international student experience will remain a key objective across the university. Discussions on facilitating programmes aimed specifically at top international research students will be ongoing with major international funding bodies and overseas scholarship agencies. A range of initiatives involving both bilateral and multilateral links with leading universities around the world will be put into place to support and enhance UCD's profile nationally, regionally and globally. It is expected that UCD's participation in the Internationalisation strand of the Dublin Region Higher Education Alliance, through which UCD was awarded over €1.25 million, will lead to significant benefits in areas such as international student recruitment and international positioning.

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 welcomes students with a disability, mature learners and students from lower socio-economic groups.

As part of Ireland's leading research university, policy and practice within the Office of the Director of Access is research-informed and driven. It delivers timely and relevant supports to a diverse student body. This diversity places UCD at the forefront of national efforts to promote a social and economic culture of lifelong learning.

The support areas within the Office of the Director of Access – New ERA (targeted programme to increase access from lower socio-economic groups), the Disability Support Service and the Mature Student Advisor's office – support over 1,700 undergraduate students in UCD. Supports provided by the university include orientation programmes, skills workshops, needs-based accommodation, accessible materials and technologies, advice, guidance and financial bursaries to assist students to participate fully in university life.

Progress to date

At the close of the 2006/07 year, the entry profile for September 2007 showed students from under-represented groups and non-standard entry routes comprised 14.5% of the undergraduate population. Since 2000, 442 New ERA students have graduated from UCD, and the full-time degree enrolment by mature students in UCD has increased 85% since 2004/05. Close to 400 students are supported by the Disability Support Service. Support programmes for all students are individualised based upon a detailed assessment process.

UCD seeks to continuously innovate in the provision of Access-related services. During 2006/07, the New ERA team, working in partnership with the UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science, made further and significant strides to open the medical profession to students from under-represented groups. Since 2003, 15 New ERA students have successfully graduated from the undergraduate Medicine programme.

A culture of continuous improvement in support and service delivery underpins the approach taken. This year saw the first outputs of a quantitative evaluation of the New ERA programme, led by the Office of the Director of Access and the UCD Geary Institute. Funded by the HEA's Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF), the project has produced a white paper entitled *An Historical Overview of the Evolution of Access Programmes in Ireland and Internationally*, and completed a detailed survey of the secondary schools linked to UCD, from which data will be analysed and used to inform

required improvements to the New ERA programme approach.

Notable achievements

- 100 mature students participated in the Mature Student Advisers Office three-day Critical Writing Academy for entering mature students;
- Full-time mature degree student numbers continue to rise, with over 300 mature students accepting UCD offers;
- Targeted pre-entry initiatives and increased collaboration with FETAC-linked institutions resulted in an increase in entrants through the FETAC links scheme;
- The Kathleen Rooney Miller Scholarship has benefited over 40 mature students since 2004;
- The Bank of Ireland | UCD New Irish Scholarship has now awarded eight undergraduate or graduate degree scholarships to members of Ireland's new immigrant communities;
- A new AIB New ERA scholarship scheme has provided scholarships for 30 New ERA, disability or mature students;
- The UCD 150 scholarship was awarded to a further 16 highly motivated students in 2007;
- Some 63 second-level schools are now linked with the New ERA programme, including some newly designated schools participating in the Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools scheme;

- New ERA's comprehensive primary-school programme, involving 33 primary schools, facilitated local primary-school students to investigate UCD through school visits, worksheets and campus visits, in collaboration with NUI Maynooth;
- New ERA, in partnership with the UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics, and local visiting teachers for Travellers, hosted another Traveller Parents' workshop.

In collaboration with the UCD School of Mathematical Sciences, New ERA offered final-year Mathematics undergraduates the opportunity to work with mathematical teachers and students in six local secondary schools through the UCD Undergraduate Ambassadors Scheme.

New ERA received scholarship funding from a number of donors, both public and private. The UCD Alumni Arts Scholarship, Irish Life and Permanent Scholarship and Citigroup Scholarships were among the new scholarships New ERA was successful in securing.

The Disability Support Service, in collaboration with other higher education institutions (HEIs), and the Irish Universities Association (IUA) are developing a new data and information system that will allow for standardised and transparent entry criteria to be used across HEIs for students with disabilities.

Future objectives

Conscious of the lifelong learning needs of the greater Dublin community, UCD has committed to full participation in a new Higher Learning Network, a HEA SIF-funded initiative with other Dublin-based HEIs. The network establishes structured collaboration in order to more effectively plan for and articulate the available pathways for lifelong students in the Dublin area.

A number of strategic developments are under way, including:

- The Higher Education Access Route (HEAR), also supported by HEA SIF funding, which is currently undergoing a significant review with the aim to develop and introduce a national scheme for 2010;
- Two further initiatives supported by HEA SIF funding due for completion in the 2008/09 year: results from the New ERA Access

Evaluation project and from an Equity of Access project, co-ordinated by the IUA. This initiative aims to create and implement a new data and information system to provide greater transparency and standardisation for disabled students' application to HEIs.

Overview of Undergraduate Students by Programme

	New Entrants	Total
DSS	109	420
New ERA	117	425
Mature Students	336	971 FT
FETAC	27	45

Bank of Ireland | UCD New Irish Scholarship Awards



Bank of Ireland, in association with UCD, has introduced a New Irish Scholarship Scheme targeted at members of ethnic groups from outside the EU, now resident in Ireland.

Applicants for the scholarship scheme must be resident in the Republic of Ireland for a minimum of three years and must be legally entitled to remain based on Irish naturalisation, refugee status, humanitarian leave or leave to remain, or be holders of an Irish work permit for the past three years.

Ronan Murphy from the Office of the Director of Access at UCD said the scholarships – valued at up to €5,000 per annum for the duration of the student's undergraduate or postgraduate level degree programme – are aimed at individuals who face significant economic obstacles to entering university.

Pictured above: Bank of Ireland | UCD New Irish Scholarship recipients – Olakunle Animashaun from Nigeria, Yombo Rahman from Nigeria, Samuel Ogwu Lekwadi from South Africa and Shane Liz Andaloc from the Philippines – with the Registrar, Dr Philip Nolan, and Sinead Mulryan from Bank of Ireland

Innovation in Teaching and Learning

Emerging from an intense period of academic restructuring and curriculum redesign through the *UCD Horizons* initiative, 2007/08 saw the university's academic community begin to reflect on its teaching methodologies and practice and student-learning approaches in the new curriculum. An increase in practice-based reflection on the issues facing students in their learning – and teachers in their pedagogical approach – was evident, with a new Fellowship scheme in Teaching and Academic Development gaining momentum and raising awareness, College-specific case-studies on a range of issues increasing under the leadership of the Vice-Principals for Teaching and Learning, and formal and informal training opportunities offered through the Centre for Teaching and Learning.

Fellows in Teaching and Academic Development

The UCD Fellowships in Teaching and Academic Development were established in May 2007 with the appointment of eight Fellows. The Fellows were drawn from disciplines as diverse as computing, engineering, geography, languages, linguistics and psychology, and united in one goal: to promote innovation and excellence in teaching and learning through researching current practice in areas of strategic importance. During the first year of the scheme the Fellows chose two strategic themes:

- What are first-year students' expectations of university?
- How are students engaged in and motivated by their learning experience?

First-year experience

The project team, led by Dr Niamh Moore (UCD School of Geography) and including Dr Sara O'Sullivan (UCD School of Sociology), Dr Amanda Gibney (UCD School of Architecture, Landscape and Civil Engineering) and Feargal Murphy (UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics), set out to investigate students' expectations of university in their first year and the ways in which these needs may be addressed at this critical juncture in the students' learning experience. The team identified a number of variances across subject areas in terms of first-year students' levels of confidence and learning skills. The research identified that 83% of students had a positive experience of first year, and some students had concerns about becoming socially integrated, managing their time and aspects of their academic abilities.

Engaging students

This project team, led by Rosario Hernandez (UCD School of Languages and Literatures), Dr Ellis

Hennessy (UCD School of Psychology), Dr Patricia Kieran (UCD School of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering) and Henry McLoughlin (UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics), set out to investigate the experience of students enrolled on non-programme electives and the staff experience of teaching and assessing these students. The findings of the project showed that the majority of students (80%) were satisfied with their experience of non-programme electives, and changes in operational issues as well as academic development matters would be required to enhance the experience for future students.

The outputs of both teams' research were well received at the *Universitas 21* Teaching and Learning Conference (Glasgow, February 2008). The first-year team successfully presented a paper at the European Association for Institutional Research (EAIR) (Copenhagen, August 2008) and have been invited to present its findings by Southampton University as part of a major university colloquium. The Engaging Students Team had a paper accepted for the Society into the *Higher Education Research Annual Conference* in December 2008.

Incentivising innovation in module design and pedagogical practice

To facilitate teaching and learning innovation at module level, a Module Support Grant scheme was introduced in 2008. The objective of the scheme was to support staff in developing and implementing new pedagogical approaches to enhance existing modules for delivery in academic session 2008/09. Up to €5,000 was made available to module co-ordinators through a competitive process. An assessment panel, including an external colleague from the Dublin Region Higher Education Alliance, was constituted and recommended a total of six awards for module development. During 2008/09, these innovations

will be evaluated and the findings disseminated to inform the development of good practice in teaching and learning innovation.

Graduate Diploma in University Teaching and Learning

In January 2008, eight people were awarded a Graduate Diploma in University Teaching and Learning and a further three were awarded a Graduate Certificate.

This year saw the creation of two new modules designed to be particularly valuable for experienced university academics wishing to catch up with the latest developments in curriculum design and problem-based learning.

Increasing Enquiry- and Problem-Based Learning approaches (EPBL)

The Enquiry- and Problem-Based Learning project is co-ordinated by the UCD Centre for Teaching and Learning and funded by the HEA through SIF. This project provided education and staff development support for the design and implementation of enquiry- and problem-based learning initiatives across a range of disciplines in UCD. This included the design of an inter-professional PBL module and two EBL English literature modules. It included the implementation of a PBL psychology module and the implementation of a PBL MSc programme in ultrasound. A PBL Summer School jointly hosted by this project and Facilitate, the Irish PBL network was held in UCD on 23–27 June 2008.

Adult Education

The UCD Adult Education Centre provides part-time, lifelong learning opportunities to a diverse student population of adult learners. Much of its strategic work is informed by current policy on lifelong learning and by the strategic plans of the university. The main components of the programme are: learning for all (interest courses); credit courses; access courses; professional development and learning support; and research.

Progress to date

In 2007/08, the UCD Adult Education Centre:

- Attracted 3,425 registrations to a variety of Adult Education part-time courses;
- Offered Access courses in Arts, Science, Engineering and Commerce that are especially designed to bring students up to entry level for university;
- Offered certificates in key disciplines which attracted 928 students to a broad range of accredited courses;
- Delivered a series of student-support workshops;
- Disseminated a series of Adult Learning Support materials to all 922 credit students on accredited Adult Education programmes.

Notable achievements

Over 300 students received Adult Education awards in the annual Awards Ceremony held in UCD in May 2008. Students received Certificates and Diplomas across a wide variety of subject areas. The Mature Student foundation/access courses offered by Adult Education include Access to Arts and Human Sciences; Access to Commerce; and Access to Science and Engineering.



Exploring the various lifelong learning opportunities in UCD

Future objectives

The UCD Adult Education Centre will facilitate the university in attracting and supporting adult learners through:

- Communicating the rationale for equity of access for mature students;
- Creating routes of access and progression to higher education for mature students;
- Establishing links between Adult Education programmes and Foundation Provision in *UCD Horizons*;
- Promoting and developing a broader range of teaching and learning strategies for adult learners in higher education;
- Developing flexible and varied formats for course delivery.

Quality

The aim of UCD's Quality Framework is to enhance the effectiveness of its core activities of teaching and learning, research, innovation, student experience and community engagement and outreach. The framework addresses all areas of university activity, focusing on their contribution to and alignment with the university's strategic goals.

The underpinning principles of the UCD Quality Framework are:

- Quality teaching and learning, student experience, research and innovation and community and alumni engagement are essential to the university's mission, goals and activities;
- The university will evaluate its achievements against appropriate national and international benchmarks. Its quality review processes are evidence-based, where outcomes and feedback from stakeholders will provide the basis for analysis and conclusions on which improvements are planned;
- Collegiality – the university's procedures reflect the principles of rigorous peer review, as it is aimed to identify areas of improvement, to foster collaboration and exchange of best practice, and to encourage an ethos of critical self-evaluation.

Progress to date

During 2007/08, the university refreshed its Quality Review Procedures and initiated a new, shorter (seven-year) quality-review cycle.

The following reviews were completed during the period:

- A review of Business degree programmes with UCD's partner, Asia Pacific Management Institute, in Hong Kong and Singapore;
- UCD School of Law;
- UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics.

During the year, UCD, working with the Irish Universities Quality Board and IUA, led the preparations for the 2008 national HE Quality conference on the theme of *Opportunities and Challenges in Developing Fourth-Level Education*.

Future objectives

The university will continue to roll out its programme of unit review, and will, in addition to these quality reviews, plan to develop a capacity to undertake university-wide thematic reviews in key areas. In addition, support will be provided for quality-oriented initiatives agreed as necessary for curriculum improvement and enhancement, such as Teaching Quality and means to measure and evaluate student engagement with their learning – and with university life in general. The 2008/09 academic year will also see the university focus on preparations for institutional review, scheduled for 2009/10.



4

Building a World-Class Research-Intensive University

UCD is committed to becoming a leading European research-intensive university that drives innovation and creative discovery within its community of world-class researchers.

UCD continues to build its reputation as a destination of choice for leading researchers, providing an environment in which they can innovate and excel. UCD is also forging exciting educational and research partnerships and collaborations with academic, community, business and professional organisations, enhancing confidence in UCD as a destination for quality investment and making it a national leader in research funding.

The overall winner of the 2008 Images of Research Competition - entitled 'Ray-zor Sharp Vision' - shows the eye of a spotted ray and its intricately shaped iris. This adaptation makes the ray's eye very sensitive to movements within a large visual field. Image was captured by PhD student Edward Farrell, UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science



Research Funding

UCD Seed Funding Scheme
UCD President's Research Fellowship Scheme
UCD Strategic and Major Awards

Research Awards and Honours

Strategic Achievements

Research News and Achievements

UCD Research Institutes

UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular and Biomedical Research
UCD Geary Institute
UCD Urban Institute of Ireland
UCD Humanities Institute of Ireland
UCD Complex and Adaptive Systems Laboratory (CASL)
UCD Institute of Food and Health
UCD John Hume Institute for Global Irish Studies
Charles Institute
UCD Clinton Institute for American Studies
Irish Institute for Chinese Studies
UCD Mícheál Ó Cléirigh Institute
UCD Institute for Sport and Health

Collaborative Programmes

Centre for Synthesis and Chemical Biology (CSCB)
Molecular Medicine Ireland (MMI)
National Digital Research Centre (NDRC)
National Institute of Bioprocessing Research and Training (NIBRT)
Technology Research for Independent Living (TRIL)
Institute of Biomedical Informatics

NovaUCD

Research publications

Details of all research publications for the period of the Report are available online at

www.ucd.ie/research/publications

Research Funding

UCD has had an extremely successful year. Contracts awarded exceeded €100 million for the first time, with the total value up 19% to €114.7 million (see Tables 1 and 2). Central to this performance has been the number of large collaborative awards under SFI's Centres for Science, Engineering and Technology (CSET) and Strategic Research Clusters (SRCs). These multidisciplinary awards create academic–industry partnerships in several areas, including computer science, solar energy, drug development and nanobiology.

Included in this €114.7 million funding is €3.4 million in respect of PRTL 4-funded projects. In total, UCD was awarded €29.8 million under PRTL 4, representing €17.5 million for the first phase of the Science Centre development and €12.3 million for national collaborative programmes. UCD also entered into a partnership agreement with the board of the City of Dublin Skin and Cancer Hospital that resulted in €12 million external funding for the development of the Charles Institute.

Table 1: Research Awards

Year	Total Value Contracts Signed incl. Contributions to Overheads (€ million)	Total Contributions to Overheads (€ million)	Total Number of Contracts Awarded	Number of Proposals Submitted
2003/2004	49.8	5.6	405	685
2004/2005	62.5	8.1	495	1,074
2005/2006	82.9	11.8	664	1,245
2006/2007	96.3	14.8	556	1,234
2007/2008	114.7	17.3	484	1,090

Table 2: Funding Sources

Funding Source	Number of Contracts	Value (€ million)
Science Foundation Ireland (SFI)	150	56.3
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	28	11.2
Environmental Protection Agency	25	4.7
European Commission	24	5.7
Higher Education Authority incl. PRTL	23	4.9
Health Research Board	16	6.4
Enterprise Ireland	31	2.9
Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology (IRCSET)	52	7.1
Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS)	22	5.2
National Council for Forest Research and Development (COFORD)	4	2.2
Business	20	2.3
Others	89	5.8
Total	484	114.7

Internal Schemes in Support of Research

UCD Seed Funding Scheme

Now in its fourth year, the Seed Funding Scheme aims to provide funding to researchers at all stages of their careers, with particular emphasis on projects that may be competitive for subsequent external support. A total of €1.1 million was awarded in 2007/08 for the Seed Funding Scheme, with 42% of 762 applications funded (see Table 3).

A new strand of the Dissemination and Outputs scheme, 'Hosting a Conference', opened Round 1 in 2008 in to all permanent research staff from lecturer to professorial level. Funding is available to support the hosting of a conference or other significant forum at UCD. This new strand was developed to promote collaboration and to provide a forum for debate and discussion. Applications were received from 26 researchers for the new strand, and seven were funded.

Table 3: Seed Funding Scheme

ROUND 2 2007		
Programme	No. of Awards	Amount Awarded €
Dissemination & Outputs	58	99,917
Enterprise & Commercialisation	4	25,000
TOTAL	62	124,917
ROUND 1 2008		
Programme	No. of Awards	Amount Awarded €
Dissemination & Outputs	122	151,095
Dissemination & Outputs - Hosting a Conference	7	50,175
Internal & External Collaboration	33	299,918
Horizon Scanning	31	243,206
Small Equipment Award	18	192,190
Enterprise & Commercialisation	3	25,019
Total	214	961,603
ROUND 1 (SECOND CALL) 2008		
Programme	No. of Awards	Amount Awarded €
Dissemination & Outputs - Conference Participation Only	48	49,775
Total	48	49,775

UCD President's Research Fellowship Scheme

The President's Research Fellowship Scheme offers researchers in UCD the opportunity to explore new research ideas or to visit other centres for a short period. Eighteen researchers applied for the prestigious award in 2008 and successful applicants are shown in Table 4.

Table 4: President's Research Fellowship Awards

Name	School
Professor Maria Baghramian	UCD School of Philosophy
Professor Orla Feely	UCD School of Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical Engineering
Professor Declan Gilheany	UCD School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology
Professor Tom Inglis	UCD School of Sociology
Professor Attracta Ingram	UCD School of Politics and International Relations
Professor Jonathan Malthouse	UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science
Professor Aidan Moran	UCD School of Psychology

UCD scientists discover a potential treatment for IBD

UCD scientists have discovered a potential therapeutic approach to Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD), a chronic debilitating disease which affects more than 15,000 people in Ireland and millions of people worldwide. Published in the journal *Gastroenterology*, the team has demonstrated that it can almost completely reverse signs of the disease in a model using a new class of drugs known as hydroxylase inhibitors. Professor Cormac Taylor, UCD Conway Institute, explained that when the new drugs were applied, the gut was tricked into thinking it was being deprived of oxygen and this activated protective pathways, which in turn prevented the death of the cells lining the gastrointestinal tract.

UCD Strategic and Major Awards

The Strategic and Major Initiatives Scheme provides support for the development of major inter-disciplinary programmes that advance the strategy for research in UCD. Table 5 lists the strategic and major initiatives approved in 2008.

Table 5: Strategic and Major Initiatives Approved

Unit	Total	Leader	Purpose
UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science	€26,000	William Gallagher	Imaging in the Life Sciences
UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science	€50,000	Jeremy Simpson	High-throughput screening facility
UCD Research	€50,000	Des Fitzgerald	Charles Institute for Dermatology Research and Education
UCD School of Public Health and Population Science	€25,000	Richard Tremblay	Childhood Development Programme
UCD School of Business (NITM)	€50,000	Petra Arweiler	Innovation Networks Research Centre

IUPAC International Young Chemists of the Year

In June 2008, Dr Emilie Banide, a recent PhD graduate from the CSCB and the UCD School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, was selected by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) as one of its five International Young Chemists of the Year (2008), based on the quality of her PhD thesis and the resulting publications.

Earlier in the year, Dr Banide was awarded the Prize for Young Chemists (2007), sponsored by *The Irish Times* and selected by a committee of the Royal Irish Academy. Her thesis was selected as the best chemistry PhD thesis in Ireland and she became Ireland's candidate for the IUPAC prize.



Dr Emilie Banide, CSCB and UCD School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology

Research Awards and Honours

Graduate Research Education Programmes

UCD achieved outstanding results in the Graduate Research Education Programmes, funded by the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS) and the Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology (IRCSET), leading four of the five programmes awarded. The Graduate Research Education Programme brings together groups of senior academics focused on a specific theme to provide a more formalised and structured approach to research education and career formation for doctoral and master's scholars. The awardees were:

- Professor Paul Devereux, Professor of Economics and Geary Research Fellow, leads the Graduate Programme for the Quantitative Social Sciences along with Professor Patrick Paul Walsh;
- Professor Eugene O'Brien, former Director, Urban Institute Ireland, leads the PhD programme in Sustainable Development. The programme is organised into inter-disciplinary groups embracing planning, environmental policy, engineering, energy and ecology;
- Professor Gerardine Meaney, Professor of Cultural Theory, UCD School of English, Drama and Film, leads the graduate programme in Gender, Culture and History;
- Professor Denis Shields, Professor of Clinical Bioinformatics from the UCD Conway Institute, leads the PhD programme in Bioinformatics and Computational Biomedicine.

Pictured at the announcement of the GREP funding awards were (from left): Prof. Eugene O'Brien, Urban Institute Ireland; Prof. Denis Shields, UCD Conway Institute; Prof. Gerardine Meaney, UCD School of English, Drama and Film; and Prof. Paul Devereux, Geary Research Fellow



Marine Functional Food Programme

The Marine Functional Food Research Initiative (MFFRI) received funding of €5.2 million to create a multidisciplinary research consortium, involving researchers from the UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine. The MFFRI comprises researchers from UCD, UCC, NUI Galway, University of Limerick, University of Ulster – Coleraine and Teagasc. The consortium will identify novel marine-food ingredients and products, and so sustain Ireland's leading position in the €50 billion worldwide market for functional foods.

Commercialisation Award for Professor Regan

Professor Ciaran Regan won the inaugural Enterprise Ireland Life Science and Food Commercialisation Award. Professor Regan, Professor of Neuropharmacology at the UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science and co-ordinator of the Applied Neurotherapeutics Research Group, is a named inventor on six UCD patents. In 2004, he co-founded a successful UCD spin-out company called Berand Neuropharmacology, which develops novel therapeutics for the treatment of autism and obesity.

UCD professor awarded RIA gold medal

Professor George Eogan, emeritus Professor of Celtic Archaeology at UCD, widely regarded as one of Ireland's foremost archaeologists, was awarded the Royal Irish Academy Gold Medal in the Humanities. His programme of archaeological work in the Boyne Valley over the past 40 years has contributed to its establishment as a national park and designation as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Each year, RIA Gold Medals are presented to two outstanding academics. They are recognised as a truly national expression of celebration for scholarly achievement.

Strategic Achievements

SFI Stokes Programme

The SFI Stokes Professorship and Lectureship Programme was established in 2007 to support the strategic recruitment of key research personnel at multiple levels, thereby enabling Schools and Institutes to integrate quality research staff to their existing pool of expertise. The 2007 SFI Stokes call funded a total of 32 professorships (each worth €180,000 per annum) and 35 lectureships (each worth €90,000 per annum) for the duration of the award. UCD received nine Stokes professorships and seven lectureships (see Table 6), worth a total of €11.3 million.

Table 6: SFI Stokes Programme Awards

Candidate	Award	School/Institute
Emmanuel Reynaud	Lectureship	UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science
Pending	Professorship	UCD School of Physics
Brian Vohnsen	Lectureship	UCD School of Physics
Pending	Lectureship	UCD Conway Institute
Pending	Professorship	UCD Conway Institute
Pending	Professorship	UCD Conway Institute
Matthias Wilm	Professorship	UCD Conway Institute
Andrew Phillips	Lectureship	UCD School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology
Gil Lee	Professorship	UCD School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology
Johan Ericsson	Professorship	UCD School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology
Ulla Knaus	Professorship	UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science
Neil Ferguson	Lectureship	UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science
Anna Roujeinikova	Lectureship	UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science
Jaoo Marques Silva	Professorship	UCD CASL
Nigel Boston	Professorship	UCD CASL/School of Mathematics and Mathematical Science
Mark Flanagan	Lectureship	UCD CASL/School of Computer Science and Informatics

CLARITY Centre for Science Engineering & Technology (CSET)

The CLARITY Centre for Sensor Web Technologies (www.clarity-centre.org) is an initiative between UCD and DCU, supported by researchers at the Tyndall National Institute, Cork. The centre is funded as a CSET by SFI and involves indigenous and multinational industry partners. It focuses on the so-called 'Sensor Web', which captures the intersection between two important research areas – Adaptive Sensing and Information Discovery. Total investment in CLARITY amounts to €16.4 million over five years. CLARITY will host approximately 80 research and support staff – active recruitment of research and administrative staff is currently under way.

CLARITY achievements

- CLARITY researchers in DCU and UCD have secured additional funding of €900,000 from Enterprise Ireland and the EPA;
- CLARITY Researchers (Maurice Coyle, Jill Freyne and Barry Smyth) were awarded Best Paper Award at this year's International Conference on Adaptive Hypermedia and Adaptive Web-Based Systems (Hannover, Germany) for their work on personalising the popular YouTube video-sharing site;
- CLARITY researchers (Maurice Coyle, Peter Briggs and Barry Smyth) established HeyStaks Technologies Ltd to commercialise the social search technology. The company will be based

in NovaUCD and is one of four new initiatives to share the Eircom €100,000 Web Innovation Fund;

- CLARITY welcomed two visiting academics: Professor Robin Burke (DePaul University in Chicago) who joins the team for one year on a Fulbright Scholarship; and Dr Pierre-Antoine Champin (University Claude Bernard Lyon 1, France) whose visit is funded by the French National Centre for Scientific Research.

Pictured (from left) are HeyStaks co-founders Dr Maurice Coyle, Prof. Barry Smyth and Peter Briggs



Strategic Research Clusters

The Strategic Research Cluster (SRCs) programme funds academic–industry partnerships that aim to harness the expertise of scientists across a spectrum of disciplines. UCD was awarded 4 of 12 SRCs funded nationally (see Table 7). SRCs help link scientists, engineers and clinicians in partnerships across academia and industry to carry out joint research activities in areas of strategic importance to Ireland, while also giving those clusters the time and resources to attract and cultivate further industry partnerships.

Table 7A: SFI Strategic Research Clusters (SRCs) awarded to UCD

Strategic Research Clusters - UCD Lead Institution

Full Title	Total Award (€)	Amount Awarded to UCD (€) over 3 years	School	UCD Lead PI	Partners Institutions	Industry Partners
Advanced Biomimetics for Solar Energy Conversion	4,742,366	2,495,814	UCD School of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering	Prof. Don MacElroy	UL DCU	Airtricity, Celtic Catalysts, STREP
BioNanoInteract	7,241,740	2,864,521	UCD School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology	Prof. Kenneth Dawson	TCD UCC NUIM UL, UU	Intel, Biotrin, Cellix, Glantreo, Thermofisher DePuy
Irish Drug Delivery Research Network (IDDN)	5,278,749	947,389	UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine	Prof. David Brayden	TCD UCC RCSI	Genzyme, Sigmoid, WEP
Reproductive Delivery Research Network (IDDN)	7,410,200	4,557,922	UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine	Prof. Alex Evans	Teagasc	Pfizer Animal Healthcare, Biotrin

Note: The figures in the table above exclude overheads and industry contributions.

Table 7B: SFI Strategic Research Clusters (SRCs) awarded to UCD

Strategic Research Clusters – UCD Partner Institution

Full Title	Total Award Value (€)	Amount Awarded to UCD (€) over 3 years	School	UCD Co PI	Lead Institution
Efficient Embedded Digital Signal Processing for Mobile Digital	3,978,541	289,018	UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics Health	Dr Chris Bleakley	University College Cork
Solid State Pharmaceuticals Cluster	6,971,997	877,319	UCD School of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering	Prof. Brian Glennon	University of Limerick
Advanced Geotechnologies	7,024,583	265,659	UCD Computer Science and Informatics	Dr Michela Bertolotto	NUI Maynooth
Network of Excellence for Functional Biomaterials (NFB)	4,347,426	380,171	UCD Biomolecular and Biomedical Science	Prof. William Evans	NUI Galway

Note: The figures in the table above exclude overheads and industry contributions.



Runner-up in the 2008 Images of Research Competition - 'Cube Turbulence' was created by Owen Grogan, UCD School of Architecture, Landscape and Civil Engineering

Toxic key to Alzheimer's identified

UCD researchers are among the co-authors of a report which has unlocked the cascade of molecular events that lead to Alzheimer's disease. The findings, published in *Nature Medicine* (22 June 2008), suggest a potential new target for the development of drug therapies to fight the irreversible and degenerative disease. Alzheimer's disease affects more than 40,000 people in Ireland and some 29.8 million people worldwide. Professor Dominic Walsh, UCD Conway Institute, and co-author of the paper, explained that the findings support the growing theory that Alzheimer's disease memory deficits may result from loss of dendritic spines and that this process is mediated by amyloid β -protein (A β) oligomers, not monomer or plaque A β as previously considered.

Research News and Achievements

Pictured at the European Centre for Atomic Molecular Calculations (CECAM) site visit (from left): Prof. Claude Guet (CECAM Taskforce), Prof. Giovanni Ciccotti (CECAM Taskforce); Prof. Nick Quirke (Principal, College of Engineering, Mathematical and Physical Sciences); Minister Mary Hanafin, TD; Prof. Des Fitzgerald (Vice-President for Research); and Prof. Eberhard Gross (CECAM Taskforce)

Best Student Paper Award

Amaya Vega, a PhD student in the UCD School of Economics, won the prestigious Best Student Paper Award at the North American Regional Science Congress. Vega's paper, which is drawn from her PhD thesis, is entitled *Residential Location and Travel-to-Work Mode Choices under Central and Suburban Employment Destination Patterns*. Funding to attend the Congress was provided by the UCD Seed Funding Scheme.

Commercialisation Award

Professor Gerry Byrne and Eamonn Ahearne have been presented with a Commercialisation Award by Enterprise Ireland (EI) for their innovative advancement of water-pumping technology. Their research into the development of a proprietary process technology at the UCD Advanced Manufacturing Science Centre is now licensed to the ABS Group in Wexford. The research, which was funded under the EI commercialisation scheme, came up with a process for improving the performance of ABS pumping systems. This project is recognised by EI and the ABS Group as an excellent example of industry-academia collaboration.

UCD hosts CECAM node

Ireland's quest to become a centre for computational research was taken one step further with the announcement that one of the six European 'nodes' for atomistic and molecular computations will be based in Ireland. For three decades, CECAM – the European Centre for Atomic Molecular Calculations – has played a pivotal role in advancing the modelling of atomic molecular phenomena. This research has led to numerous scientific breakthroughs and has helped to establish the field of computational modelling as a critical tool for discovery. The UCD-led Ireland bid was ranked third out of 12 bids from leading European universities following a site visit to UCD by a taskforce representing the CECAM Council in January 2008.



UCD paper wins PNAS Prize

The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) announced a UCD-led paper, *Understanding the Nanoparticle-protein Corona Using Methods to Quantify Exchange Rates and Affinities of Proteins for Nanoparticles*, as its 2007 Cozzarelli Prize winner. The winning paper was chosen from more than 3,600 research articles published by PNAS in 2007, and the Cozzarelli Prize acknowledges papers that reflect exceptional contributions to the scientific disciplines represented by the National Academy of Sciences of the United States.

UCD professor receives UWIG award

Professor of Electrical Engineering Mark O'Malley has been honoured by the Utility Wind Integration Group (UWIG) as a recipient of the group's Annual Achievement Award. Professor O'Malley received the award in recognition of impressive input and leadership in the production of the 'All-Island Grid Study for Renewables Integration' project. The All-Island Grid Study is a comprehensive technical-research project on the ability of the electrical power system and the national grid to absorb large amounts of electricity produced from renewable sources.

UCD RoboRugby competition

Innovative engineering and computer science students unleashed 21 robots for the final of the Siemens RoboRugby competition that took place in May 2007 in UCD. This was the fourth year of the event with 62 students taking part in the competition, which aims to make engineering fun while also developing the students' lateral thinking

and ingenuity skills. Brian Mulkeen, UCD School of Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical Engineering, believes the best way to develop engineering and problem-solving skills is through practical design.

World ranking for UCD professor

Professor Da-Wen Sun, UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine, has been ranked amongst the top 1% of agricultural scientists from around the world, according to the Essential Science Indicators (ESI) database. The ESI database from Thomson Scientific provides data for ranking individual scientists, institutions, countries and journals. According to the data derived over a period of 10 years, a total of 2,127 scientists are among the top 1% of the most-cited scientists in the category of Agriculture Sciences, and Professor Sun is at the top of the list with his ranking of 51.

Best Student Paper at FoodSim2008

Ilias Soumpasis, a researcher at the UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine, has received the award for Best Student Paper at the Biannual International Food and Nutrition Simulation Conference, FoodSim 2008. The aim of the work presented by Soumpasis and his supervisor, Professor Francis Butler, was to show an alternative method of simulating the propagation of the salmonella pathogen at the farm level, which more accurately predicts how salmonella develops on pig farms, compared to existing models.

Researcher Profiles system launched

The Researcher Profiles system has been made available by UCD Research right across the university. The profiles provide a means of showcasing the research achievements of academic and research staff in UCD to a global



Pictured at the FoodSim2008 conference (from left): Dr Enda Cummins, UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine; Ilias Soumpasis, UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine; and Dr Graeme Horley, Scientific Programme Officer, SFI

community. The Researcher Profiles system, which was designed by the research community for the research community, has been widely adopted and incorporated into School and Institute websites throughout UCD. There are now over 1,200 academic staff profiles available (www.ucd.ie/research/people).

UCD researcher helps identify initial HIV treatment

The New England Journal of Medicine has published the results of a major clinical study to evaluate commonly used HIV treatment regimes for patients starting therapy for the first time. The study has confirmed that one of the most frequently prescribed triple-drug combinations for initial HIV-1 infection is the most effective at suppressing HIV. The study also found that a two-drug regimen performed comparably for patients susceptible to severe side effects from nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs) that form part of the three-drug regimen. Professor Bill Powderly, Head of the UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science, commented that even when various treatments become available on the market, it is extremely important to study their relative effectiveness and their side effects.

First-year engineering and computer science students gear up for the RoboRugby challenge



UCD Conway Institute for Biomolecular and Biomedical Research

The research programme at the UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular and Biomedical Research focuses on biological molecules, examining how individual molecules contribute to the normal operation of human cells and organs, and how this is disrupted by disease. The Director of the Institute is Professor Janet Allen.

A total of €37 million in peer-reviewed grant income was awarded to UCD Conway Institute for Biomolecular and Biomedical Research investigators during the year. In particular, UCD Conway investigators were successful in securing SFI funding to upgrade the core technologies of the Institute. The core technologies provide investigators with access to world-class equipment and technical support. The improvements funded by SFI grants during the year included:

- Further development of the mass spectrometry resource;
- Establishment of the Illumina next-generation genomics sequencing platform;
- Spinning disc confocal microscope for live-cell imaging;
- PET/SPECT/CT imaging platform for small animals;
- High-voltage transmission electron microscope with tomography.

Progress to date

Some 51 PhD, six MD and four MSc thesis submissions were made by postgraduate students supervised by UCD Conway Institute investigators and a total of 279 peer-reviewed papers were published by UCD Conway Institute investigators during the period. SFI awarded two Stokes Professorships and one Stokes Lectureship in the area of Systems Biology to the UCD Conway Institute (totalling €3.15 million). In addition, the UCD Conway Institute secured funds from the HEA Infrastructure grant (€1.2 million) to support the redevelopment of the UCD Biomedical Facility.

The Institute's Proteomic Research Centre hosted the First Irish Proteomics Research Day in April 2008, under the auspices of the British Society for Proteomic Research.

With funding under the Higher Education Authority's PRTL Cycle 4 for the Biomedical Sciences Network Programme, the UCD Conway Institute has participated in the innovative Clinical Scientist Fellowship programme managed through Molecular Medicine Ireland (MMI). This is the first national programme involving all five Irish medical schools and provides specialised PhD training opportunities for qualified medical doctors to embark on biomedical research. The UCD Conway Institute is host to three of these research fellows. The UCD Conway Institute continues to support education in the area of Translational Sciences

and hosted a course for MMI on Techniques and Strategies in Molecular Medicine.

The UCD Conway Institute is a Marie Curie Training Site for Molecular Neuroimmunology. This programme has attracted postgraduate students from across the EU to UCD. In March 2008, its First European Symposium on Neuroimmunology attracted over 250 participants from around the world to participate in scientific debate.

The 7th Annual Conway Festival of Research was held on 20 September 2007, showcasing the research achievements of the Institute. Some 120 abstracts were presented by UCD Conway Institute researchers in O'Reilly Hall, and over 300 people attended the event. Three distinguished speakers from the international research community were invited to deliver plenary lectures: Professor Peter Dervan, California Institute of Technology; Professor Kim Nasmyth, University of Oxford; and Professor Steve Jones, University College London.

In December 2007, Merck Sharp & Dohme Ireland (Human Health) announced its year-long sponsorship of the Conway Lecture and Seminar Series (CLASS). This industry-academic collaboration has ensured the continuation of the weekly seminars which attract researchers of international renown to address UCD Conway investigators and graduate students.

In October 2007, Professors Oliver Fitzgerald and Pauline Rudd (UCD Conway Institute and NIBRT) hosted the 8th Jenner Symposium, *Glycobiology*

and Medicine, under the auspices of the Royal Society of Medicine. The UCD Conway Institute also hosted an international workshop on Social Epigenetics, organised by Professor Richard Tremblay in March 2008. Also in March, Professor Philip Newsholme hosted a Biochemical Society meeting. The UCD Diabetes Research Centre hosted a symposium on Diabetic Nephropathy in June, which attracted over 150 international delegates.

Future objectives

The UCD Conway Institute will continue to build critical mass in the area of Systems Biology through academic and infrastructure developments. Incoming SFI Stokes Professors Ulla Knaus and Johan Ericsson will join the Institute in the autumn of 2008. The Institute will continue to foster translational medicine through the Charles Institute, which is in the advanced stages of planning.

New test may help avoid chemotherapy

Scientists at the UCD Conway Institute and St Vincent's University Hospital have developed a test for newly diagnosed breast cancer patients that could help some women avoid chemotherapy. The findings have been tested and validated by a number of independent groups worldwide in studies involving in excess of 8,000 patients. The American Society of Clinical Oncology has now recommended the test as standard for all newly diagnosed breast cancer patients. Professor Joe Duffy, UCD Conway Institute and St Vincent's University Hospital, explained that this new enzyme test could help to offer a more tailored solution for patients.



Members of the CLASS committee, together with representatives of Merck, Sharp & Dohme (MSD) Ireland and Professor Leroi of Imperial College London, who gave the first of the MSD sponsored lectures. Pictured (from left): Tim Sparey, Merck Sharp & Dohme; Prof. Janet Allen, UCD Conway Institute; Dr Keith Murphy, UCD Conway Institute; Dr Derek Brazil, UCD Conway Institute; Prof. Armand Leroi, Imperial College London; Dr Neil Boyle, Merck Sharp & Dohme; Dr Orina Belton, UCD Conway Institute; and Dr Peter Smyth, UCD Conway Institute



Winner of AccesScience '08, Billy Fleming, with host Pat Kenny

UCD Geary Institute

The UCD Geary Institute conducts leading-edge research on life-course issues and the way public policy affects areas such as early childhood outcomes, youth inequalities, retirement behaviour and educational choices. The hallmark of the Institute is its cross-disciplinary research that examines effective solutions to economic, political, epidemiological and social questions. The Institute's Director is Professor Colm Harmon.

The Institute's vision is to:

- Support frontier methods of investigation, leading to the very best in research publications;
- Enhance the international profile and ranking of its researchers;
- Play a central role in the training of the next generation of researchers by maximising opportunities for graduate students to work alongside senior researchers on live projects;
- Provide objective analysis and effective solutions that address the challenges facing policy-makers.

Progress to date

Peer-reviewed publications are a primary focus for the Institute and researchers' publications appeared in *Journal of Applied Econometrics*, *Journal of Business and Economics Statistics*, *Economic Inquiry* and *British Journal of Political Science*, among others.

The weekly Behavioural Seminar series continued, with a vibrant programme of papers delivered by national and international speakers. The Qualitative Research Methods Seminar series, which comprises invited speakers, master classes and workshops, was launched by the Centre for Behaviour and Health. In addition, several major events were held, including conferences on higher education, health economics and interdisciplinary health research.

The Institute launched the Dynamics Lab to support research and training in the fields of Social Network Analysis, Group Social Processes and the Computational Social Sciences and to assist collaboration between researchers in the analysis of dynamic and complex behaviour in social networks and group processes.

The UCD Geary Institute is collaborating with Dundalk Institute of Technology to examine health-risk behaviours, in particular, risky-driving behaviours. Collaborative projects with clinical hospital groups were developed in partnership with the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and St Vincent's University Hospital. Close engagement continued with international research partners, which include RAND Corporation, Harvard Kennedy School of Government and University of Chicago: Harris School of Public Policy.

Work on the evaluation of the first experimental social policy programme in Ireland, *Preparing for Life*, is under way in the Dublin communities of Darndale, Moatview and Belcamp. Recruitment into the programme began in January 2008 and expectant mothers in these communities continue to be recruited through the maternity hospitals in the community.

Fieldwork was completed on SHARE – the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe – and the Irish component of this longitudinal study of the over-50s was launched on 20 October 2007.

The September 2008 rankings from the Research Papers in Economics database (RePEc) ranked the UCD Geary Institute 47th globally and 13th in Europe amongst university-based centres. This places UCD Geary within the top 1% of all institutions globally.

Individual academics associated with the Institute also were also ranked highly by RePEc. UCD academics Professors Paul Devereux, Colm Harmon, James Heckman, Karl Whelan, Ronald Davies and James Markusen were ranked in the top European 10% aggregated across all ranking measurements. External fellows affiliated to UCD who featured in the European top 10% were Adjunct Professor of Health Economics at UCD, Dr James Smith (RAND), Professor Ian Walker (Warwick) and Dr Arnaud Chevalier (Royal Holloway).

Contracts signed for external research in 2007/08 totalled in excess of €1 million. The Irish Universities Study (IUS), a web-based survey examining the third- and fourth-level student population in the seven Irish universities, was launched in April 2008. The first round of the study was completed in May and findings have been presented at several academic and policy events.

Future objectives

UCD Geary Institute will build on these achievements, with particular emphasis on the following for 2009:

- Development of expertise in ageing;
- Development of focused activity in behavioural economics including the creation of new

partnerships with colleagues in the UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics and ongoing relationships with colleagues in the UCD College of Life Sciences;

- The consolidation of the leadership role in the development of experimental methods for evaluation, including the strengthening of our linkages with EU partners through the European Network of Early Childhood Interventions;
- Further development of the undergraduate internship programme, which has been running successfully on a pilot basis for the past two years.

Current research at Geary

In the Centre for Behaviour and Health, Geary researchers are currently conducting a number of major research projects in the area of higher education.

EuroStudent Study

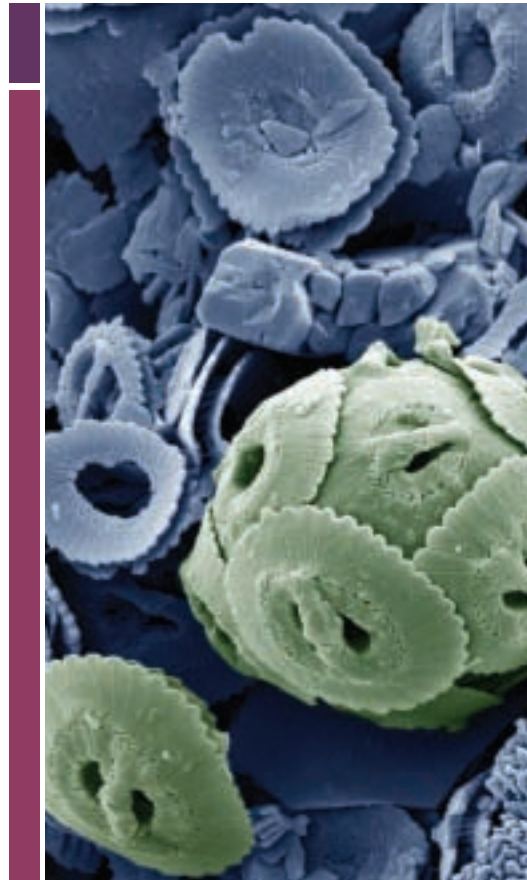
A Europe-wide survey on the socioeconomic and living conditions of third-level students.

Irish Universities Study

A major panel study of students and researchers in the seven Irish universities.

Higher Education Access Programmes

(in association with UCD’s New ERA Widening Participation Initiative)
This study evaluates the impact of access programmes on education participation, retention and success.



Runner-up in the 2008 Images of Research Competition - 'Finding Nanno' was created by Lee Toms, UCD School of Geological Sciences

UCD Urban Institute of Ireland

A centre for the development of new technologies, policies and ideas designed to improve the quality of the working and living environment, the Urban Institute of Ireland (UII) unites engineers, planners, architects, geographers, economists and scientists – all with a view to finding innovative ways of tackling the challenges of sustainable development.

Progress to date

The UII has been highly successful in 2007/08, attracting major grants under the EU FP7 which include: YEAR, Coordination and Support Action (€270,000); ASSET, Collaborative project (€402,600 for UCD); HAPPINESS, European Research Council Grant (€95,000) and Erasmus Eurasia Exchange programme which provides funding for five full-time PhD students from Asia to study at UCD for three years. In addition, the UII was successful in securing nationally competitive funding through SFI, IRCHSS and IRCSET.

During the year the Institute expanded to accommodate 27 PhD students and five postdoctoral fellows.

The first cohort of the IRCHSS/IRCSET Graduate Research Education Programme (€1.5 million) hosted in UII will commence in September 2008. The PhD Programme in Sustainable Development has received funding for 10 full-time students. The four clusters of the Programme are: Biodiversity and Climate Change; Environmental Economics and Policy; Planning and Land Use; and Transport and Infrastructure.

A prestigious SFI E.T.S. Walton Visiting Professor Award was awarded to Professor Roger White from Memorial University, Canada who is a leading international researcher in the modelling of land-use change.

Dr Susana Ferreira and Professor Peter Clinch, UCD School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy, and Dr Finbarr Brereton, with support from UII, were awarded a prestigious European Science Foundation Grant, funded by IRCHSS for HAPPINESS (HAPPiness, Political Institutions, Natural Environment and Space), a comparative analysis of the influence of environmental conditions, environmental regimes and political context on subjective well-being.

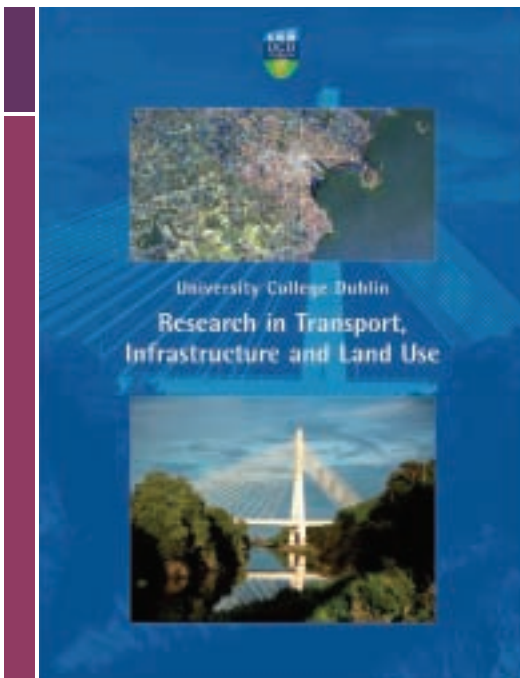
The Young European Arena of Research 2008 (YEAR 2008) project, funded under EU FP7 and led by Professor Eugene O'Brien, gives early-stage researchers from across Europe an opportunity to showcase their work in the area of road transport to experts within the field. Fifty finalists were invited to attend the Transport Research Arena 2008 Conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in April 2008 to display their work.

Future objectives

The ongoing Urban Environment Project funded by the Environmental Protection Agency aspires to link spatial policy and planning to decision-making at local and regional levels, using a computer-based model (MOLAND) to address economic, environmental and social dimensions in an integrated fashion. A key objective is to roll this out as an operational tool that enhances sustainable development.

UII is co-ordinating a programme within UCD entitled the 'Earth Systems Institute' led by Professor Frank Convery. The initiative brings together researchers in the areas of Earth Systems, Bioresources, Nano-risk, Biocomplexity, Environmental Policy, Urban Studies (including Transport and Land Use) and Energy to address the future impact of environmental change and changing energy sources on Ireland.

The UII brochure in the area of Transport, Infrastructure and Land Use provides a sample of current UCD projects and publications authored by this research group



UCD Humanities Institute of Ireland

UCD Humanities Institute of Ireland (HII) is a dynamic and creative space for research and debate in the arts and human sciences. The HII's strategic objectives centre on supporting innovation and excellence in arts and humanities research, while providing a platform for high-quality doctoral students and career scholars. The Institute is directed by Dr Marc Caball. Its current research programme is funded through HEA PRTL Cycle 3 and is entitled 'Identity, Memory and Meaning in the 21st Century'.

Progress to date

During the period of this report, 29 doctoral students and two postdoctoral fellows were members of the HII. Three academic staff members of the UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies and a visiting academic were affiliated to the HII while on sabbatical research leave. In addition, there are six principal investigators from the UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies leading research strands within the HII's programme. The Irish Virtual Research Library and Archive team continues to digitise an important body of humanities content from UCD's rich archival holdings.

In the area of international networking in the humanities, the HII is an active member of the Consortium for Research Institutes in the Humanities and of the Humanities Institutes of Advanced Study Group managed by the School of Advanced Study at the University of London.

A range of innovative topics, many inter-disciplinary in nature, were investigated by HII doctoral students. In addition, in line with its commitment to enhancing humanities graduate training, the HII hosted a number of master classes on academic presentation skills.

Notable achievements

The acclaimed HII inter-disciplinary seminar series and other lectures provided a lively focus for discussion and debate among students, academics and interested members of the public. Among the speakers who participated were:

- Dr Rory Miller (King's College, London) – *Jewish Community in Ireland and Zionism*;
- Professor Margaret Kelleher (NUI, Maynooth) – *Bilingual Culture in Victorian Ireland*;
- Professor Gerry Kearns (University of Cambridge) – *Nation, Diaspora and Cosmopolis in Ireland*;
- Hugo Hamilton (novelist) – *Identity and Disguise*;
- Micheál Ó Siadhail (poet) – *Trauma and Vision and the Shaping of History*.



Dr Marc Caball, Director of the Humanities Institute of Ireland, and novelist Hugo Hamilton, who participated in the HII's inter-disciplinary seminar series

The HII, in partnership with the UCD School of Languages and Literatures, hosted a series of lectures on comparative literature delivered by leading international scholars. Among these scholars were Professor Elizabeth Boa (University of Nottingham), Professor Aleida Assman (University of Konstanz) and Professor George Steiner (University of Oxford).

HII Distinguished Lectures were delivered by Professor Tomás Ó Cathasaigh (Celtic Studies, Harvard), Professor Julian Thomas (Archaeology, Manchester) and Professor Werner Jeanrond (Divinity, Glasgow).

The HII hosted and supported several high-profile conferences that addressed cross-cutting issues such as the cultural impact of globalisation in Ireland; world-writing and migration; script and print cultures in Ireland; queer theory; and literature.

Future objectives

The HII's strategic research agenda will centre on the humanities in Ireland in a comparative global context. This will leverage UCD's impressive strengths in humanities scholarship and research and it will exploit HII's access to research networks in Ireland and internationally.

UCD Complex and Adaptive Systems Laboratory (CASL)

The UCD Complex and Adaptive Systems Laboratory (CASL) is an innovative research initiative that places informatics, applied mathematics and computational sciences at the heart of UCD's science strategy. Through CASL, researchers in finance, human sciences and economics are harnessing the tools of informatics, genetics and computational biology to provide new knowledge from complex information. CASL hosts some of Ireland's most innovative researchers working in diverse fields such as biomedical modelling, financial predictions and catastrophic events. CASL provides new solutions in data mining and computational modelling for the world's most intractable problems, in health, finance and the environment. The Director of the Institute is Dr Scott Rickard.

Progress to date

Since its launch late in 2006, CASL has grown from 175 to over 210 researchers and staff. Major programmes include Technology Research for Independent Living (TRIL) and CLARITY, which will be hosted in CASL until early 2009. In August 2008, leading mathematician Professor Nigel Boston joined the Claude Shannon Institute as an SFI Stokes Professor of Pure and Applied Algebra.

Notable achievements

- 19–20 May 2008: The Claude Shannon Institute Workshop on Coding and Cryptography took place at UCC;
- June 2008: *Scientific Predictions of the Irish Climate in the 21st Century* – co-edited by Professor Peter Lynch and launched by Environment Minister John Gormley TD;
- July 2008: Maurice Coyle and Peter Briggs, along with Professor Barry Smyth, launched

HeyStaks, a technology to improve internet search by stacking and sharing information;

- Dr Michael O'Neill was awarded SFI PI funding in August 2008 for the EDGE Project (Evolution in Dynamic Environments with Grammatical Evolution);
- The Machine Learning Group, under Professor Pádraig Cunningham, made available two software applications for biomedical data analysis, metaFIND and enableNMF;
- The Claude Shannon Institute has been selected to host the Ninth International Conference on Finite Fields and Applications which will take place 13–17 July 2009 at UCD.

Future objectives

- Initiate a new programme on Systems Biology;
- Develop a new programme on innovation research;
- Establish a strategic research cluster on financial mathematics.

Runner-up in the 2008 Images of Research Competition - 'Seastars' was created by Dr Julia Sigwart, UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science



UCD Institute of Food and Health

The UCD Institute of Food and Health, a multidisciplinary, campus-wide initiative, brings together leading academics and researchers from all areas of food and health research at UCD. These areas include food safety; food and the consumer; food production; food regulation; food and nutrition; food science; and food biosystems. The Institute's aim is to foster research across disciplines and, through its research, influence national and European policy; promote public awareness of food and health issues; and engage with international peers. The Institute's Director is Professor Mike Gibney.

Progress to date

As part of the National Functional Food Research Centre (NFFRC), which is jointly funded by Enterprise Ireland and four major Irish food companies, the Institute recently received €8.64 million. The NFFRC, which also includes UCC, Teagasc Moorepark Food Research Centre and UL as partners, will investigate the development of milk-based functional foods targeting health areas, including early-infant development, metabolic syndrome, immunity/infection and colorectal cancer. Research on the isolation, identification, characterisation, formulation and validation of milk bioactives will form the basis of the Centre's research, under the co-ordination of Professor Dolores O'Riordan, UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine.

Notable achievements

The Institute has received €971,000 from the Marine Institute and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food as part of the Marine Functional Foods Programme. In collaboration with researchers from UCC and NUI Galway, the Marine Functional Food Research Initiative, led by Professor John O'Doherty, UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine, will identify novel marine-food ingredients and products by concentrating on three areas: the use of fish-processing waste; the sustainable exploitation of underutilised fish and seaweed; and the development of value-added products from aquaculture.

The Institute was awarded a four-year contract from EU FP7 to create a food chemical exposure surveillance system within the EU worth €625,870 to UCD. The FACET project (Flavouring, Additives and Food Packaging Exposure Task), with 20 partners throughout the EU, will investigate three core areas: exposure to food additives; flavouring substances; and food packaging migrants.

Through the Health Research Board and the Food Institutional Research Measure under the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the Institute has received €1.62 million for its role in the establishment of a National Research Centre for Diet, Obesity and Diabetes (NRC). With Professor Cecily Kelleher, UCD School of Public Health and Population Science, leading the UCD multidisciplinary team and working with researchers from UCC and Teagasc, and on an all-island basis with Ireland and Northern Ireland's Population Health Observatory, the NRC will produce internationally competitive research that will provide the evidence base for public policy, health promotion and clinical practice on the prevention and management of obesity, diabetes and related metabolic disorders.

The Institute has taken a lead role under Professor Mike Gibney in the Joint Irish Nutrigenomics Organisation consortium with UCC, TCD and UU as partners. The purpose of the consortium is to create a large database containing information that will represent the national nutritional phenotype. UCD has obtained funding from FIRM for two aspects of the project, the National Adult Nutrition Survey (€1.54 million) and the Metabolic Challenge Study (€982,362).

Professor Francis Butler, UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine, is leading the UCD team within the Institute on a €2.3 million FIRM-funded project entitled Safe and Healthy Foods. With researchers from Teagasc, UCC, QUB, UUJ, the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute in Northern Ireland and the Food Safety Authority of Ireland, the project will develop a monitoring and surveillance programme for food safety and health on the island of Ireland.

The Institute, under Professor Butler, also has a lead role in the Microbial Quantitative Risk Assessment Network of Ireland. Funded under FIRM (€291,115), the objective for the network is to develop a high-calibre, internationally

recognised, multidisciplinary network of national experts on the application of microbial quantitative risk assessment as a tool to underpin risk-management actions.

UCD Institute of Food and Health is a lead partner of the Irish Food and Health Research Alliance (IFHRA), established to direct a strategic commitment to research in the area of food and health. IFHRA is funded by the HEA under PRTL Cycle 4, of which the Institute received €1.8 million. Working closely with other institutions on the island involved in food and health research, the Institute will have a specific role in the development of the fourth-level sector in food and health research on the island of Ireland.

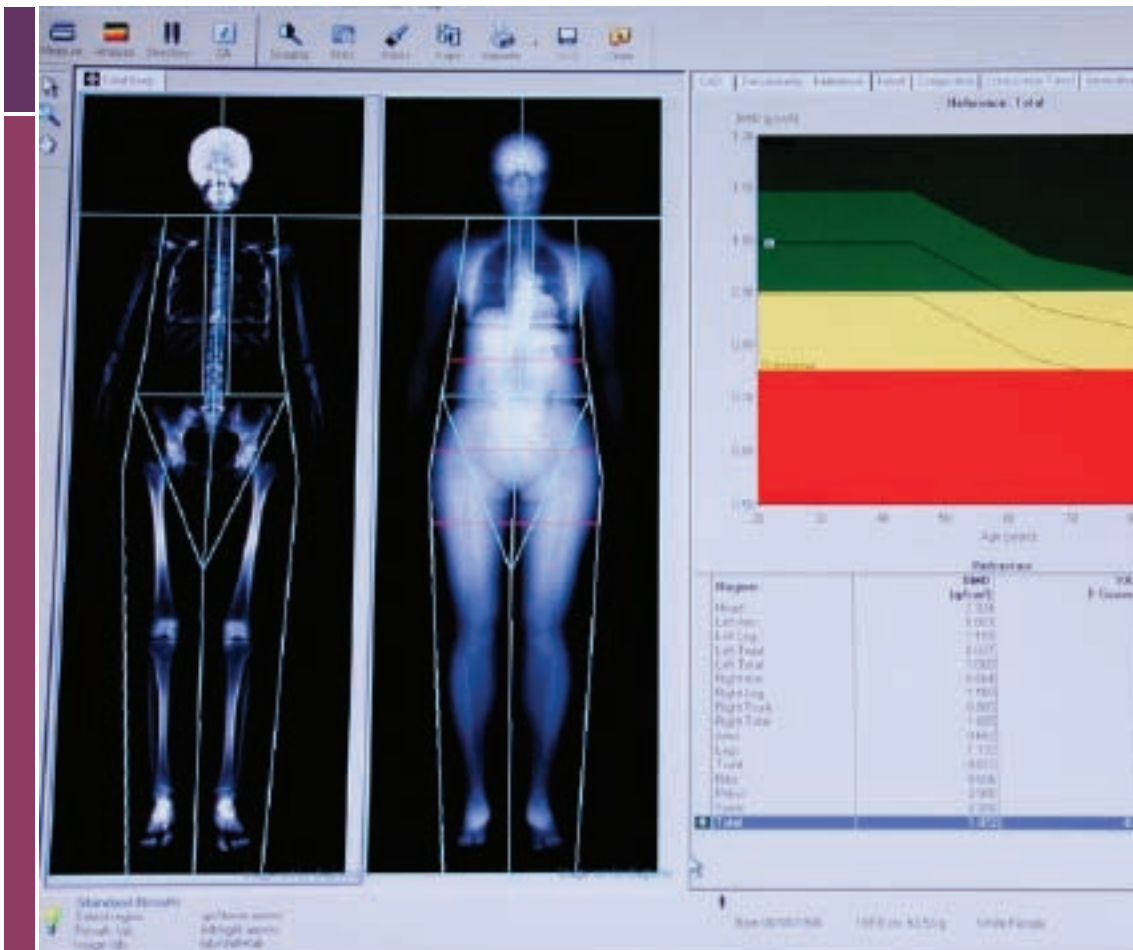
The Institute has, for the past number of years, run the Food Graduate Development Programme, funded under FIRM (€500,000). This programme was developed by UCD, UCC and Teagasc, with the aim of providing skills training to postgraduate

students and research staff in universities and research institutions in Ireland. Modules in this programme have a strong emphasis on the skills required from leaders in the agri-food sector, food industry and other institutions nationally and internationally.

Future objectives

Continuing the multidisciplinary ethos of the Institute, a number of Ad Astra PhD scholarships will commence in autumn 2008. The cross-disciplinary themes include: a Study of Consumer Understanding and Willingness-to-Pay for Nutrition and Health Claims on Food; Obesity, Physical Activity and the Built Environment: Environmental Workplace Interventions (Stair-climbing) for Weight Management and Health; and Measuring the Carbon Footprint of Irish Food Trade. A further Ad Astra scholarship is under way, examining the private governance of food safety and quality.

Image captured from a scanning machine that will be used by one of the studies in the JINGO project for the measurement of body composition including bone-mineral density, fat mass and lean mass. This image shows a breakdown of the bone-mineral density in specific regions of the body



UCD John Hume Institute for Global Irish Studies

Eighty million people around the world identify themselves in some way with Ireland and with Irishness. Set against this broader context, the mission of the UCD John Hume Institute for Global Irish Studies is to:

- Engage, connect and develop this diverse global community as an active social network of global citizens;
- Engage with the past, the present and the future of Ireland and the Irish;
- Capture and map the global Irish community;
- Explore new directions in the study of Ireland and the Irish;
- Apply specific learning outcomes from thematic areas into wider contexts such as conflict resolution, interculturalism, integration and development.

Progress to date

The Institute's Director, Dr Brian Jackson, completed, with the Institute's principal investigators (PIs), the first recruitment round for postdoctoral fellowships and PhD studentships funded under the HEA PRTL Cycle 4. Four postdoctoral posts and six PhD students are participating in the programme from October 2008.

Other activities are funded from philanthropic funding and from generated income. These include hosting and participating in a range of events, including:

- The first Global Irish Forum, which took place in New York in November 2007 and attracted 1,000 participants. The programme featured 30 speakers from Ireland and the USA. The second forum will take place in Dublin on 10 November 2008;
- The first international James Joyce Symposium. This was organised by Professor Anne Fogarty from the UCD School of English, Drama and Film.

The Institute funded scholarships and travel bursaries which enabled 20 PhD students from around the world to attend what is intended to be an annual event;

- An international workshop on Ireland and Diaspora attended by 20 senior academics drawn primarily from *Universitas 21* member institutions;
- An international symposium on the *Adoption of Agriculture in Ireland*, organised by Dr Graeme Warren, UCD School of Archaeology;
- The programme of the 60th UCD International Summer School this year focused on the theme of *Shared Histories: Plantation, Migration, Integration and the Irish*.

The Institute has launched an Artist-in-Residence fellowship scheme to promote participation in its public programme. The first Artist Fellow will be the poet Dr Nessa O'Mahony, who will take up her post in October 2008. Her work has been widely published and translated and she has been the recipient of a number of international awards and bursaries.



A panel session from the first Global Irish Forum held in New York in November 2007 (from left): Niall O'Dowd, Declan Kelly, Don Keough, John Duffy, Loretta Brennan Glucksman, UCD President Dr Hugh Brady, Denis Kelleher and David McWilliams

Charles Institute

The Charles Institute is a partnership between the UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science, affiliated teaching hospitals (St Vincent's University Hospital and Mater Misericordiae University Hospital) and the board of the City of Dublin Skin and Cancer Hospital Charity. The institute will be located between the Health Sciences Centre and the UCD Conway Institute in a new facility with a capital investment of €18 million and a 2010 completion date. The Institute's vision is to become a world leader in dermatology research and training, which will lead to improved patient care through the discovery of new treatments and therapies.

Pictured at the launch of the Charles Institute are (back row, from left): Stephen Walsh; Prof. Eoin O'Brien (UCD Conway Institute); Matthew O'Brien; Gerard Lawler, Thomas Brennan; Padraig O'Cearbhaill; Seamus Kennedy; Prof. Bill Powderly (UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science); and Ciaran Ryan. Front row (from left): Oonagh Manning; Prof. Des Fitzgerald (Office for Vice-President for Research); Peter O'Flanagan; UCD President Dr Hugh Brady; Mairin McDonagh-Byrne; and Dr Paul Collins



Notable achievements

The Charles Institute was launched by the Minister for Health and Children Mary Harney TD on 13 June 2008 in UCD Research. A board of directors has been appointed and is meeting on a quarterly basis to provide governance for the Institute. Through a series of detailed design workshops, the building sub-committee of the board has completed an initial schedule of accommodation, a projected cash-flow statement and a project plan. A clinical sub-committee has also been formed whose remit will include creating links to other dermatology units in Ireland and abroad, and the training of medical and nursing students in various aspects of dermatology.

Future objectives

Completion of the detailed design brief for the building and sign-off on the building layout will enable the detailed building design phase to commence in preparation for planning permission. In addition, the board will seek to recruit a Professor of Clinical Dermatology/ Institute Director to lead the Institute, as well as establishing an International Advisory Committee.

UCD Clinton Institute for American Studies

UCD Clinton Institute for American Studies has been established at UCD with the support of the Irish government in recognition of the crucial contributions by former president William Jefferson Clinton to the Irish Peace Process. The Institute is devoted to advancing academic research and public discussion about the USA in Ireland and beyond. It advances UCD's strategic mission to internationalise research programmes and to foster inter-disciplinary research and teaching programmes. The Institute Director is Professor Liam Kennedy.

Progress to date

In the academic year 2007/08 the Institute ran a busy schedule of research seminars, public lectures, symposia and international conferences. This included conferences on *Human Rights and Media* (May 2008), on *Labour History* (April 2008) and symposia on the *Vietnam and Iraq Wars* (November 2007) and *The USA and the Northern Ireland Peace Process* (May 2008). It also co-organised several events with international partners, including symposia on *Contemporary American Culture* at the University of Warwick (March 2008) and on *Transnational American Studies* at the Free University in Berlin (May 2008).

The Institute continued to support dedicated, collaborative projects to spearhead its research culture. These included projects on: The USA and Northern Ireland, 1968–2000; War and American Identity, and The American-Irish – all projects involving Irish and international scholars and professionals.

The postgraduate programmes continued to grow, with the introduction of a new master's programme in Media and International Conflict and an increase in PhD entrants. The graduate culture of the Institute is closely linked to international networks and research activities. In July 2008, the second Clinton Institute Summer School brought together scholars and doctoral students from across Europe and the USA to discuss current issues in the study of the USA.

In November 2007, Professor Kennedy was awarded an IRCHSS grant (€300,000) to support a three-year research project on photography and international conflict. A postdoctoral fellow has been appointed to support the project.

In May 2008, the Institute co-hosted a Forum on the Peace Process in the USA Capitol Building in Washington. The event symbolically marked the 10th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement



Ambassador Kathleen Stephens, Congressman Peter King and David Byrne SC pictured at the Forum on the Peace Process in the USA Capitol Building in May 2008

and brought together participants from the USA Congress, the White House and non-governmental groups to discuss the lessons that may be learned about the interactions of these agencies as a model for resolving conflict in the wider world.

Future objectives

The UCD Clinton Institute will continue to build its graduate and research programmes. This will involve:

- Integrating its graduate and research programmes to enhance the international profile of the Institute, its faculty and its students;
- The pursuit of national and European funding opportunities to support research projects, and the nurturing of new funding partnerships with public and private sectors to support cultural and outreach programmes;
- Furthering international collaboration with centres of excellence in American Studies, through collaborative research projects, the Institute's Summer School and postgraduate student exchanges.

Irish Institute for Chinese Studies

The Irish Institute for Chinese Studies was officially launched on 26 September 2006 by Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan, following an initial development period when it was known as the UCD Centre for Chinese Studies. The UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland is based in the Irish Institute for Chinese Studies. The Director of both Institutes is Dr Liming Wang.

Aiming to achieve stronger educational, cultural and business links between Ireland and China, the Institute has the following primary objectives:

- Increased recruitment of Chinese students to UCD through partnership programmes;
- Creation and delivery of degree pathways in Chinese Studies to home students;
- Development of an international research profile in Chinese Studies;
- Facilitation of Irish–Chinese economic and cultural links;
- Provision of professional consultancy services for government and business.

Progress to date

The academic year 2007/08 saw increased overall recruitment of Chinese students to UCD, while at the same time home student demand for places on the BComm with Chinese Studies degree programme has continued to rise. For the five years before 2006, fewer than 20 students per year were recruited to UCD from China; in 2008, numbers had risen to 100. The BComm with Chinese Studies programme received 159 applications from home students for 14 places in 2006/07; 223 applications for 19 places were awarded in 2007/08; while the 2008/09 programme has awarded 21 places from 260 applications. Twelve core and elective modules have been developed for this programme.

The Institute has developed a new pre-master's studies programme, due to begin in 2008/09. The pre-master's studies programme represents an innovative solution to the challenge of recruiting and preparing high-calibre Chinese graduates for postgraduate degree courses at UCD: 20 final-year undergraduates from three Chinese partner universities will attend the Pre-Masters Studies course, which includes three final-year undergraduate modules in their second semester in either Law or Business, the subject areas of the programme's pilot year. The Pre-Masters Studies programme is the fourth year of a 3+1+1 model in which students spend three years in their Chinese university and two at UCD, the final year being spent taking a master's degree course. The programme is the result of agreements between UCD and three partner universities in China, as

well as agreements within UCD itself between the Institute and participating Schools.

The establishment of the UCD–CSC (China Scholarship Council) Scholarship Scheme through the joint efforts of the Institute and UCD Graduate Studies brought 10 PhD scholars to UCD. Joint supervision of PhD research programmes has been implemented between the Institute and the Schools of Law and Business.

In order to identify and meet the needs of Irish business in China, the Institute carried out a survey entitled *National Survey of Firms and Companies in Ireland on the Need for Support and Expertise in Chinese Business, and Training in Chinese Language and Culture*. Early indications from this research are very positive.

Future objectives

- Expansion of undergraduate and postgraduate degree pathways in Chinese Studies in partnership with relevant schools at UCD;
- Expansion of the Pre-Master's Studies Programme as a feeder programme into other subject areas;
- Pursuit of fundraising opportunities towards the realisation of a 'new home' for the Institute at UCD;
- Conducting further research at doctorate and post-doctorate levels across a broader base of China-related issues;

- Greater engagement with policy makers, offering first-hand research evidence to inform and influence policy decisions;
- Promotion of greater international collaboration and awareness of Chinese language and culture in Ireland;
- Provision of expertise and services to both the public and private sectors towards deepening the economic links and improving relations between Ireland and China;
- Continuing development of imaginative and exciting programmes of events and outreach programmes that will enhance intercultural appreciation and activity in Ireland.

Cultural artists celebrate Chinese New Year at UCD

The Irish Institute for Chinese Studies and the UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland maintained the new tradition of holding an annual Spring Festival and Chinese New Year Gala Performance at UCD's O'Reilly Hall in February 2008. The celebration of the Year of the Rat proved even more popular than 2007's spectacular Beijing Opera. Around 1,000 spectators were enthralled by the Chengdu Opera Troupe whose artists gave stunning expositions of dance, hand-shadows, acrobatics and singing. The Beijing Bailing Shadow Puppet Troupe, the only surviving professional exponents of this ancient art form in the world, also gave a delightful performance.



Photo on left: Performer from the Beijing Bailing Shadow Puppet Troupe



Photo on right: Liu Yi from the Sichuan Opera Troupe (background) and Yang Hong from the Chengdu Opera Troupe at the UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland Chinese New Year Celebrations at UCD

UCD Mícheál Ó Cléirigh Institute

The mission of the UCD Mícheál Ó Cléirigh Institute consists of three main strands:

- Conserve, curate and manage the manuscripts and books entrusted to UCD by the Irish Franciscans through cataloguing, digitisation and expert curatorship and restoration;
- Oversee a research programme in Irish history and civilisation through weekly seminars, frequent conferences and publications;
- Encourage a new generation of dedicated scholars through provision of PhD and postdoctoral fellowships and the development of major projects.

Dr John McCafferty is the Director of the Institute.

Psalter of Caimín. Image courtesy of UCD-OFM partnership, held in the UCD archives

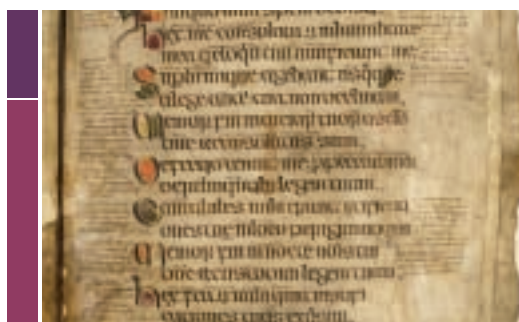
Progress to date

The Institute's work and profile expanded considerably in 2007/08. Between September and December 2007, the Louvain 400 anniversary was celebrated by a number of high-profile public events. These included major exhibitions of Franciscan and related material, which was put on public display for the first time ever. Collaborators included the Hunt Museum, Limerick (Franciscan silver from the south-west of Ireland), Waterford Treasures (the Wadding papers) and the National Library of Ireland (the Tadhg Ó Cianáin diary of the Flight of the Earls).

An exhibition of Franciscan chalices rediscovered as a result of the UCD Mícheál Ó Cléirigh Institute's IRCHSS-funded project on the material culture of the mendicant orders was mounted at the National Museum of Ireland Decorative Arts and History Collins Barracks and is currently ongoing. A collaborative exhibition, *Writing Irish History: the Four Masters and their World*, involving the UCD Mícheál Ó Cléirigh Institute, the Royal Irish Academy and TCD, attracted over 80,000 people.

In May 2008, the Second Annual Mícheál Ó Cléirigh Summer School was held in Leuven on the theme of migration and exile and successfully brought together historians, linguists, state officials and sociologists from Ireland and Europe to examine concepts and issues relating to contemporary and historical migrations.

The Institute continued to hold weekly seminars on all aspects of Irish history, language and literature. A specific day dedicated to worldwide Franciscan studies and to profiling the Institute's various projects was initiated with a view to raising its international profile.



The Institute, in association with UCD Archives, continued on its programme of conserving and cataloguing the Franciscan manuscripts and books. Books from the Franciscan collection are currently being catalogued by an expert consultant in collaboration with UCD Special Collections. The C manuscripts ('Louvain papers') are also being listed before they move from the Franciscan Library in Killiney to the UCD Archives.

A new project funded by the Heritage Council's INSTAR programme on *Mapping Ireland: Death and Burial in Ireland from the 1st to the 8th Centuries AD* has been initiated and a postdoctoral fellow has been appointed to undertake the research.

Future objectives

The Institute's plan for 2008/09 includes the development of a new book project involving cataloguing and managing books in Killiney, Co. Dublin, and in friaries throughout Ireland. This also includes the commencement of a historic library project in association with the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, the University of Antwerp and the Plantin-Morteuus Museum, Antwerp. The Institute is directing negotiations with other institutions in Ireland and in Leuven on the establishment of a Centre for Irish Studies in Leuven.

UCD Institute for Sport and Health

The UCD Institute for Sport and Health has been established under the direction of Professor Colin Boreham. The overall aims of the Institute are to promote exercise for health and sporting excellence for the people of Ireland. It will accomplish these aims through a range of activities, including teaching, research and service provision. The Institute is governed by the following principles to:

- Provide teaching and outreach services of the highest standard;
- Strive to be at the forefront of international sports science research.

Progress to date

While the Institute for Sport and Health remains in the early stages of development, notable progress has been made in the past year. It now boasts a fully functional Human Performance Laboratory in its Newstead base, with state-of-the-art equipment for the physiological measurement of exercise capacity and related health parameters. These include DEXA scans (bone status and body composition), isokinetic dynamometry (muscle strength and power), large treadmills and electronically braked cycle ergometers (work capacity), 'Portapres' (arterial properties and heart rate variability) and a 'Bod Pod' (body fat percentage).

A laboratory manager, Romain Denis, has been appointed from Brunel University, and the laboratory is beginning to host a number of collaborative projects, including muscle electrical stimulation for weight loss (Dr Brian Caulfield/BMR Ltd); functional fitness in the elderly (Professor Mike Gibney, UCD Institute for Food and Health); and the influence of stretching on muscle strength (Professor Philip Newsholme, UCD Conway).

The Institute laboratory is also providing a number of services for local sport, including performance testing of the Leinster Senior Rugby Squad and the Irish Women's Hockey Squad in its preparations for the London Olympics in 2012.

Other staff appointments include Dr Chris Lonsdale, a sports psychologist who joins from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Dr Lonsdale takes up a unique appointment, jointly funded with the Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU), to develop sports psychology services for the IRFU, as well as teaching and research for the university. Over the past year, Professor Boreham has been appointed Chair of the Accreditation Committee for the Irish Institute of Sport; Professor Giuseppe De Vito has also been appointed to this committee. In addition, Professor De Vito was elected to Fellowship of the

Faculty of Sport and Exercise Medicine.

The Institute hosted two guest academics during the year (Dr Geir Resaland, Oslo and Nienke Wijnstok, Amsterdam), and visits to discuss collaborative projects were made by Professors Jos Twisk and Willem van Mechelen (Amsterdam). Sixteen staff from the Norwegian School of Physical Education held their annual research seminar at the Institute, and research talks were given by Visiting Professor David Goldspink, as well as by his equally distinguished brother, Professor Geoffrey Goldspink.

Research grants were awarded from the Health Research Board (Dr Deirdre Hurley-Osing) and the Irish Institute of Sport (Professors Boreham and De Vito). Two IRCSET studentships and two Ad Astra studentships were also awarded.

Future objectives

The UCD Institute for Sport and Health will continue to expand its activities and capacity in its key areas of operation. Research grant applications have been submitted or are planned for submission to the Health Research Board, Strand 3, FP7 and internal sources such as the College of Life Sciences Strategic Research initiative. Collaborative research links both internally and externally (including with Bologna, Amsterdam, Maastricht, Vienna, UL, TCD and UU) will be consolidated, and at least one additional visiting professor of international standing will be appointed. Internal links of strategic importance will be strengthened, in particular with the UCD School of Public Health and Population Science, and a thematic PhD programme in Exercise and Health will complement the positioning of this topic as a key research theme within the UCD College of Life Sciences. The Institute and its staff will also continue to play a key role in translating research and scholarly expertise into the work of internal and external committees and decision-making bodies concerned with sport and health.

Centre for Synthesis and Chemical Biology (CSCB)

The Centre for Synthesis and Chemical Biology (CSCB) is a collaboration in the chemical sciences between UCD, TCD and RCSI. Its mission is to promote knowledge, health and economic advancement to enrich the nation's research and educational resource base and to facilitate the development of the pharmaceutical industry in Ireland. The Institute's Director is Professor Pat Guiry.

The CSCB aims to:

- Advance knowledge in the chemical sciences of synthesis and chemical biology;
- Bring together, for the first time in Ireland, a critical mass of researchers in the chemical sciences;
- Serve as a national resource for researchers in academia and industry in synthesis and chemical biology;
- Fuel the Irish pharmaceutical industry, accelerate the development of an indigenous pharmaceutical sector and attract pharmaceutical research and development to Ireland.

Progress to date

In 2007/08, CSCB researchers graduated close to 30 PhD students, published 150 articles in peer-reviewed journals, gave 145 invited lectures and poster presentations and were awarded over €9.5 million in external funding. There were six invention disclosures, one licence agreement and seven patents filed.

A thematic graduate programme in (Bio) pharmaceutical and Pharmacological Sciences, funded by the HEA PRTL Cycle 4 in collaboration with colleagues in TCD, DCU, UCC, QUB and the RCSI, was launched in UCD.

Among the events hosted by the CSCB included:

- Bernal Symposium on Protein Crystallization, September 2007 at UCD;
- First meeting of the Irish Institute for Metal-based Drugs, September 2007 at the RCSI;
- *Recent Advances in Synthesis and Chemical Biology VI*, December 2007;
- RSC Symposium – *Chemistry and Cancer*, February 2008;
- Third ERA Chemistry *Flash* Conference, March 2008;
- Ninth Annual Symposium on Supramolecular Chemistry in Ireland, March 2008;
- International Neuroimmunology Symposium, March 2008;
- SBE's Fourth International Conference on Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, July 2008 at UCD.

Notable achievements

The sixth annual CSCB symposium *Recent Advances in Synthesis and Chemical Biology VI* was held at TCD on 14 December 2007. Delegates heard plenary lectures from six distinguished speakers, describing current research at the interface between chemistry and biology.

The 2007 annual Bristol Association for Crystal Growth (BACG) conference, which was a joint meeting with the Irish Association for Crystal Growth (IACG), was held at UCD in September. The conference was chaired by Professor Brian Glennon, CSCB and the UCD School of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering.

The first meeting of the Irish Institute for Metal-Based Drugs was held at the RCSI on 20 September 2007, chaired by Professor Kevin B. Nolan, CSCB and RCSI.

Future objectives

The CSCB will continue to strive towards the strategic, research and teaching and learning objectives as outlined at its inception by aiming to:

- Complete the design of the new BSc degree in Medicinal Chemistry and Chemical Biology, which commenced with its first entry of students in September 2007;
- Develop Biopharmaceutical Sciences as a new strand of activities, funded under the HEA PRTL Cycle 4;
- Build additional facilities to host programmes in drug delivery and structural biology;
- Expand the Science@CSCB outreach programme to include more visits from students and teachers.

Molecular Medicine Ireland (MMI)

On 17 April 2008, the Dublin Molecular Medicine Centre (DMMC) became Molecular Medicine Ireland (MMI), with the addition of UCC and NUIG to the DMMC partners, UCD, TCD and the RCSI. MMI is a not-for-profit company established by its partner institutions to achieve their common objectives in accelerating the translation of scientific research into better quality outcomes for patients. The Chief Executive is Dr Ruth Barrington.



Notable achievements

Molecular Medicine Ireland co-ordinated a successful application, led by Dr Peter Doran, Director of UCD's Clinical Research Centre, on behalf of MMI's partner institutions and in association with QUB, to establish a control biobank of healthy Irish volunteer samples, GeneLibrary Ireland. UU has since joined this consortium. The GeneLibrary Ireland biobank is expected to contain DNA and blood samples from 10,000 volunteers throughout Ireland, together with the results of a detailed medical examination and information on lifestyle and environment. The development of GeneLibrary Ireland will allow researchers to study the role that different genes play in disease and health processes, thereby improving health.

MMI, with the active involvement of Dr Peter Doran, UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science, is participating in the pan-European Biobanking and Biomolecular Resources Research Infrastructure network to ensure that Irish researchers can benefit from the networking of biobanks in Europe and that GeneLibrary Ireland is developed in harmony with international best practice.

With the leadership of Professor William Watson, UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science, MMI is facilitating the evolution of the Prostate Cancer Research Consortium from a trans-institutional city-wide in Dublin network to a national resource involving UCC, NUIG and their associated hospitals.

In June 2006, a DMMC bid from TCD, UCD and RCSI was successful in securing a multimillion-euro investment from the Wellcome Trust and the Health Research Board for the Dublin Centre for Clinical Research (DCCR). The DCCR will provide the infrastructure for clinical research in Dublin, including a city-wide research information technology network and a training programme for research nurses.

Earlier this year, Jeremy Towns was appointed Programme Manager for the DCCR, and management structures, on which UCD is represented by Professor Michael Keane, UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science, are now in place to support an array of disease/research groups with representatives from across the city. Over the summer, disease groups in Diabetes and Pulmonary Fibrosis have started to work on city-wide clinical research projects. Planning permission is expected for a new clinical research facility at St James's Hospital in September 2008 and the commissioning of this facility in 2010 will complete the network of clinical research facilities that include those at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and St Vincent's University Hospital sites.

MMI courses and workshops build on the strengths of five premier academic institutions and affiliated teaching hospitals. They provide an easily accessible structured means for postgraduate students and staff to develop their skills and training in the biosciences, with a major emphasis on translational research. Highlights in this period included a second run of the Molecules to Medicines course, in partnership with Wyeth; the fifth run of the popular Techniques and Strategies in Molecular Medicine; and an exciting new development where places were offered on selected UCD structured PhD taught-course modules developed by the UCD Conway Institute.

Pictured at the launch of MMI are (back row, from left): Dr Ruth Barrington (CEO, MMI); UCD President Dr Hugh Brady; Dr John Hegarty (Provost, TCD); Dr Michael Murphy (President, UCC); Mr Michael Horgan (CEO/Registrar, RCSI). (Front row, from left): Dr Pat Morgan (Dean of Graduate Studies, NUI Galway); Dr Michael Kamarck (Chair, MMI); and Mary Hanafin, former Minister for Education and Science

National Digital Research Centre (NDRC)

Founded in 2006 by a consortium of third-level institutions (UCD, DCU, TCD, IADT and NCAD) with the support of the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, the National Digital Research Centre (NDRC) operates as an independent, not-for-profit centre of excellence. The NDRC's applied digital technology research supports the emerging digital industry in Ireland, bridging the gap between innovative research and the marketplace. Collaboration, based on multidisciplinary and multiparty project teams, is core to the NDRC ethos and solution-focused mission. Ben Hurley is CEO of the Centre.

Progress to date

The NDRC has recruited several key members during the period, including two Translational Research Leaders (Kevin Jennings and Kevin Smith) who are equivalent to Principal Investigators and are distinguished by their strong emphasis on achieving early adoption of innovative technology in the marketplace. Business analysts (Daniel Crowley, Majella Murphy and Kathryn Parkes) have also been recruited to work with project teams, placing a strong focus on business modelling and marketplace research.

The NDRC has launched three calls for Expressions of Interest in Collaborative Translational Research in Digital Technologies. Targeting academic, private sector and social bodies, each call has attracted an increasing number of responses,

resulting in a strong base from which to select projects.

Future objectives

Contractual agreements have been finalised with a number of projects and these are due to kick-start over the coming weeks. One such project, LiDAR, submitted by Dr Debra Laefer, UCD School of Architecture, Landscape and Civil Engineering, will look at new methods of representing, modelling, interpreting and data mining remotely sensed imagery and LiDAR point clouds for a new generation of engineering-enabled city modelling. Another project, Inside Out, focusing on the area of health awareness and childhood obesity, will create an exciting learning-games module for children, enabling them to develop an understanding of the human body and health.

Runner-up in the 2008 Images of Research Competition - 'Point of Reduction' was created by Triona Nicholl, UCD School of Archaeology



National Institute of Bioprocessing Research and Training (NIBRT)

The National Institute of Bioprocessing Research and Training (NIBRT) is a consortium of UCD, TCD, DCU and IT Sligo which is funded by IDA Ireland with a mission to support Ireland's bioprocessing industry by providing world-class training and research solutions in state-of-the-art facilities.

Progress to date

Over the past 12 months NIBRT has made notable progress, recognised by the approval of the NIBRT Phase 2 Proposal by IDA Ireland and government.

In April 2008, Dr Maurice Treacy was appointed CEO of NIBRT. Dr Treacy joined NIBRT from SFI where he held the position of Life Sciences Director. NIBRT's management team was completed with the appointment in May 2008 of Dr Ian Nelligan as NIBRT's Training Director. Dr Nelligan joined NIBRT from Wyeth where he held the position of Associate Director of Technical Operations.

In May 2008, NIBRT announced a research collaboration with USA pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly. This research partnership, with Professor Pauline Rudd and the Dublin–Oxford Glycobiology Laboratory at the UCD Conway Institute, will focus on the glycosylation of biological products. In addition, NIBRT has developed research programmes with pharmaceutical companies such as Organon, Schering Plough, Astellas, Shire and Merck Serono.

NIBRT's success in developing research collaborations with industry has been based on a platform of world-class research, which has been recognised over the past year by successful grant applications to EU Framework 7, Cancer Research Ireland, Enterprise Ireland and SFI.

NIBRT has also signed contracts to provide customised, practical training solutions to the biopharmaceutical industry, including Pfizer, Eli



Computer image of the new NIBRT facility planned for the Belfield campus

Lilly and Wyeth. These training solutions are augmented by NIBRT's academic education programme and, in particular, the continued success of the UCD MEngSc in Biopharmaceutical Engineering.

NIBRT was awarded full planning permission for its proposed facility on the Belfield campus, to be located at UCD's Fosters Avenue entrance. The European tender process for the design of the facility has been completed. It is anticipated that construction will commence in spring 2009 and the building will be fully operational in autumn 2010. The NIBRT building will provide state-of-the-art research and training facilities, including a bioprocessing pilot plant.

A key component of NIBRT's success has been the development of partnerships with colleagues in Higher Education Institutes (HEI). In April 2008, NIBRT supported the launch of GlycoSciences Ireland, which is an all-island initiative to create a dynamic scientific community between industrial and academic stakeholders.

Early cancer detection

A research team from the NIBRT Dublin–Oxford Glycobiology Laboratory at UCD has come up with a system that may pinpoint potential 'biomarkers' of early forms of cancer. The researchers have achieved this by looking at the structures of specific sugar molecules, which are attached either to proteins made by cancerous cells or to proteins involved in the host response. Professor Pauline Rudd explained that they have found alterations in sugars attached to proteins in blood serum from all cancers they have looked at, and some of these appear to be early markers of the disease processes. She added that they also have been able to isolate several sugar-linked variants of particular proteins which are associated with different types of cancer, including prostate, pancreatic, ovarian and breast cancers.

Technology Research for Independent Living (TRIL)

The TRIL Centre is a research collaboration between industry and academic partners including UCD, TCD, NUIG and Intel to develop technologies for successful ageing. The Centre has dedicated laboratories at Intel and in each of the universities involved, driving two-way knowledge and technology transfer to address the physical, cognitive and social consequences of ageing. It develops innovative technologies to help people 'age in place' wherever they choose to live. The project, which is co-funded by Intel and the IDA, was launched in January 2007 with a €23 million investment. TRIL Centre Directors are Professor Paddy Nixon of UCD and Dr Terry Dishongh of Intel. Professor Nixon is also Co-Principal Investigator for the Technology Platform, along with Dr Aaron Quigley, UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics, and Dr Mick McGrath of Intel.

Progress to date

TRIL's approximately 70 personnel are spread across the participating universities, Intel Ireland and clinical sites such as the TRIL Clinic at St James's Hospital, Dublin. The TRIL Technology Platform team (TTP) has relocated to the UCD Complex and Adaptive Systems Lab (CASL).

Achievements at the TRIL Centre during the past year include:

- The release of the first full version of the BioMOBIUS Research Platform on 22 April 2008;
- Presentation by Professor Paddy Nixon at the SPARC/CARDI conference in Belfast on 10 June 2008;

- Presentation by the TTP Team at the Intel Research Day in California on 11 June 2008;
- TTP Team delivered a workshop at the IEEE EMBC08 conference in Vancouver, Canada on 20 August 2008.

Future objectives

- TRIL TTP hosting an international BioMOBIUS workshop in UCD on 10 September 2008;
- Finalisation of TRIL home deployments 2008 for the fall, cognitive and social strands; driven by the TTP Technology development.

Institute of Biomedical Informatics

The Institute of Biomedical Informatics (IBI) was established in 2007 as an all-Ireland platform for research, education and enterprise in the science of biomedical informatics. This Institute is a partnership of leading academic institutions, industry-partners and the public sector. The foundation partners led by UCD include NUIG, TCD and QUB, along with Hewlett-Packard Galway. The Director of the Institute is Professor Paddy Nixon. IBI supports and enables the field of translational research that aims to bridge the gap between the delivery of healthcare and fundamental biomolecular science.

Progress to date

The IBI Graduate Board developed a structured PhD programme for IBI Graduate Scholars that will focus on: cross-institutional training for generic and thematic skills; and cross-institutional placements and industry internships.

The IBI is currently supporting two funding applications to pursue its objectives comprising:

- A North/South proposal in Bioinformatics led by QUB;
- A Principal Investigator proposal to SFI by NUIG in the area of Virtual Glycan Array Development and Carbohydrate Receptor Engineering.

The IBI established a PhD Scholars programme. Currently six PhD students are conducting research in the IBI core areas of Bioinformatics

and Health Informatics, and are located across UCD, QUB, TCD and NUIG. The topics of research are: Combining multiple methods of predicting the replication of human genes; Automatic computer assisted analysis of cancer biopsies; Analysing complex data from anatomy research; Enhancing cancer detection techniques that use Ultra Wide Band (UWB) radar; Assessing data quality in healthcare records; and Tracking biological samples across multiple locations.

Future objectives

- Recruitment of a further six PhD students and the formalisation of the IBI Structured PhD Programme.

NovaUCD

A major strategic objective for UCD is to contribute to the social, economic and cultural objectives of Ireland's knowledge society. NovaUCD, the university's Innovation and Technology Transfer Centre, strives to meet this objective by:

- Commercialising the university's intellectual property outputs;
- Supporting entrepreneurship and the development of campus companies;
- Facilitating partnerships between the university and industry;
- Promoting a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.

The Director of NovaUCD is Dr Pat Frain.

In September 2007, Professor Mark Keane was appointed Vice-President for Innovation and launched a major consultation and review process of UCD's innovation strategy.

Progress to date

NovaUCD's technology transfer team received a major boost with the investment by Enterprise Ireland of nearly €3 million over a five-year period to expand staff numbers. Five new staff members, consisting of three experienced technology transfer professionals, a contracts manager and administrative support, joined NovaUCD. This investment allows NovaUCD to meet the increasing innovation outputs arising from the rapid expansion in research income at UCD in recent years.

In the past year, 49 invention disclosures were reported to NovaUCD and 23 priority patent

applications were filed across all areas of life sciences, engineering and information and communication technology. In addition, five Patent Co-operation Treaty (PCT) applications and seven national/regional patent applications were filed. This intellectual property is also beginning to be exploited in the eight licence agreements signed with a range of indigenous and international companies.

In addition, at year end, 23 knowledge-intensive companies, occupying over 90% of the available incubation space, were located in NovaUCD.

Twelve companies have now also graduated from

ChangingWorlds wins Innovation Award



ChangingWorlds, the UCD spin-out whose technology is used by 50 mobile network operators worldwide and impacts daily on the 'usability experience' of hundreds of millions of phone users on the mobile internet, won the inaugural Irish Technology Leadership Group (ITLG)/*The Irish Times* Innovation Award.

The ITLG, an independent organisation comprising a number of high-level technology leaders in Silicon Valley, established this award to recognise

an innovative Irish company that it believed has the most potential to succeed on the international stage. ChangingWorlds was also ranked Number 8 in the 2007 Deloitte Technology Fast 50, a ranking of the 50 fastest-growing technology companies in Ireland.

ChangingWorlds was founded in 1999 by Professor Barry Smyth and Paul Cotter as a spin-out from UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics. It now employs over 140 people who are based in offices in Dublin, including its Advanced Research Centre at NovaUCD, as well as in Malaysia and the USA.

David Moran, CEO, ChangingWorlds

Dr Denise Cornally and Dr Anna Edvardsson, Development Scientists, Enzolve Technologies



NovaUCD to make way for the next generation of start-up companies.

This year saw the pioneering development of courses on innovation and entrepreneurship being included in the newly structured PhD programme, as part of the Transferable Skills for Graduate Research Students Programme. These courses, co-developed by NovaUCD and the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School, attracted over 40 students and are seen as playing a key role in exposing graduate students to the commercial possibilities of their research.

Several NovaUCD client companies enjoyed notable achievements during the year. AP EnvEcon, a new spin-out company from the Environmental Economics Unit of UCD's School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy, was the overall winner of the NovaUCD 2007 Campus Company Development Programme (CCDP).

BiancaMed received £250,000 sterling from Invest NI towards the establishment of an R&D centre at the Queen's University Institute of Electronics, Communications and Information Technology, while Duolog Technologies opened a new office in California as part of its global expansion plans.

Enzolve Technologies received substantial investment from Enterprise Ireland and private investors to enable it to commence production of 'NeoScreenPak', a new range of diagnostic kits for screening a variety of disorders that affect newborn infants.

Evolution launched TempSheets.com, an easy-to-use online system designed for recruitment

agencies that place temporary staff, and gsmExchange.com signed a major deal with Vodafone to develop a business-to-business platform that enhances the purchase and distribution of Vodafone's mobile handsets worldwide.

HeyStaks was one of four new companies to share the Eircom €100,000 Web Innovation Fund, while Q-Validus launched Spreadsheet Safe, an innovative training and certification programme designed to assist businesses in reducing the risks associated with poor spreadsheet design, use and control.

Demonstrating NovaUCD's international leadership in technology transfer, Dr Pat Frain was appointed Chair of ProTon Europe. ProTon Europe is the pan-European network of knowledge-transfer offices, national knowledge transfer associations and companies affiliated to universities and other public research organisations. With over 250 direct member institutions in 28 European countries and 10 national partner associations, it reaches out to over 600 European universities.

Future objectives

NovaUCD's vision is to be an international leader in the commercialisation of research and other knowledge-intensive activity for the benefit of Ireland's economy and society. The implementation of the new UCD Innovation Strategy will see the further development of the Belfield Innovation Park, which will enable more enterprises to locate on campus. International experience shows that this is the next step Ireland must take in developing an innovation culture and, as in the past, NovaUCD intends to be in the vanguard of these advances.

Dr Pádraic Conway, UCD Vice-President University Relations; Dr Pat Frain, Director, NovaUCD; Dr Jimmy Devins TD, Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation and Professor Mark Keane, UCD Vice-President for Innovation pictured during Minister Devins' visit to NovaUCD and the UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular and Biomedical Research in July 2008



5

Providing a High-Quality Student Experience

UCD has embarked on a wide array of exciting initiatives aimed at establishing the Belfield campus as a centre of teaching excellence, a world-renowned research environment and a vital hub of public engagement with extensive student facilities. The university environment is constantly changing, and so too must its physical infrastructure if it is to positively respond to the students' needs, the increasingly mobile staff members and the growing collaboration with industry, while also engaging the local community.

Alongside academic excellence, providing students at UCD with opportunities to understand the importance of community engagement, active citizenship and diversity is of paramount importance.

The university's excellent student facilities provide a perfect platform to enable students to foster friendships, develop interests and social skills and become active members of the UCD community. More than 50 sports clubs and 110 societies cover a wide spectrum of passions, skills and pursuits that can shape a more rounded academic experience for the UCD student.

Computer-generated
view of the UCD Gateway
Project



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Counselling Services](#)

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Facility Development

The student and staff experience is touched on by nearly every facet of the physical space of the campus, from buildings to landscape and from signage to space utilisation. Supporting campus life, learning, leisure and recreation, it is important that an enhanced infrastructure is carefully planned and implemented. Recent campus development captures the sentiment of the university, which is to create infrastructure that meets the needs and demands of the staff, students and adjacent neighbourhoods alike.

UCD Gateway Project

The Gateway Project will establish an iconic signature for UCD that displays architectural excellence and environmental sustainability. The project will provide not only a gateway to the community, but will also promote learning activities, business ventures, improved cultural and heritage awareness and advances in knowledge links.

In providing facilities that are essential to leading universities, the UCD Gateway Project will underpin the development of an exceptional student experience at UCD. When fully developed, it will include almost 100,000m² of arts exhibition, culture, academic, office and retail space along with student residence accommodation with associated car parking, improved pedestrian linkages, a Gateway Plaza and a new bus terminus.

Designed by the award-winning firm Ingenhoven Architects, the Gateway Project masterplan provides the Belfield campus with a stunning architectural entrance from the N11 through the Gateway Plaza, which forms the vibrant heart of the Gateway Project. The plaza leads into the core of the campus, which will be remodelled as two figure-of-eight circles forming an oasis of green surrounded by the university buildings.

The remodelled centre will include improved pedestrian linkages, extensive open space and landscaping and visual continuity to develop Belfield as a green, sustainable and modern 21st-century university campus.

The main built structures will sit on 13 hectares, comprising three parallel rows of buildings, with the tallest curve fronting onto the N11. The sequence of buildings will share a common curved roof, which will provide continuity and enclosure for the Gateway Plaza and atrium spaces.

In April 2007, UCD launched a competition to select a commercial partner to help realise the Gateway Project. This generated a strong response from potential partners, from which a shortlist of bidding consortia has been selected to tender for the contract to design, build, finance, maintain and operate the project. Following the selection of a commercial partner, UCD will apply for planning permission in 2009.

The design of the UCD Gateway Project will place emphasis on environmental sensitivity and high performance, while allowing UCD to contribute to the social, economic and environmental development of the city.



Computer image of the UCD Gateway Project upon completion

UCD Science Centre

UCD generates the highest number of science graduates among the third-level institutes in Ireland. It has doubled research enrolment since 1998, 70% of whom are in the field of Science, Engineering and Technology. UCD's capacity and the quality of its research and training, at both undergraduate and postgraduate level in science and engineering, is key to Ireland achieving the national goals outlined in the government's Strategy for Science Technology and Innovation.

The redevelopment of the UCD Science Centre aims to forge a community of scientific scholars, with shared facilities and instruments, in close proximity to each other. The brief is to develop a design that will transform the university's scientific core research and teaching facilities and generate substantial capacity for interdisciplinary activity.

The first phase of the redevelopment of the Science Centre South Building, which is adjacent to the UCD Centre for Synthesis and Chemical Biology, is now complete. This initial phase includes laboratories, write-up spaces, shared equipment rooms and a large number of fume-extraction hoods, which will support 60 researchers.

In March 2008, the HEA awarded UCD €8 million to implement the strategic refurbishment of existing Science Centre facilities. This Research Facilities Enhancement Scheme supports the overall plan for the transformation of Science at UCD.

A team led by RKD Architects has been appointed to design the overall Science Centre. The implementation of a series of workshops with the relevant Schools, Colleges, Institutes and senior management has been initiated to focus on strategies for improving the quality of teaching and learning infrastructure, strengthening research capacity, developing thematic research neighbourhoods and promoting links with government, industry and other third-level institutions.

The next phase of Science Centre development, which is due to be completed in 2010, will focus on the provision of state-of-the-art facilities for PRTL 4-funded programmes in Bionanoscience, Biopharmaceutical Sciences, and Food and Health.

Newman Building

UCD specifically sets out to achieve excellence in teaching and learning and student life. Within the framework of the Newman redevelopment project, it was agreed to establish the UCD School of Education and Lifelong Learning in Roebuck on an interim basis. This relocation will enable the necessary improvements and changes to the accommodation in the Newman Building. High-quality refurbished office space at Roebuck has enabled the relocation of Human Resources from rented accommodation at Belfield Office Park.

Through the upgrade of audio-visual facilities in the Newman Building, UCD continues its commitment to improve teaching and learning experiences for students. The use of standardised

Architectural representation of the redeveloped UCD Science Centre





*The new Entrance Deck
at the Newman Building*

teaching technology and common audio-visual equipment supports a multidisciplinary approach to education.

The completion of the new Entrance Deck at the Newman Building in late 2007 has generated an attractive meeting point for the campus. Complemented by the recent renovation of the Arts Café, this will contribute to increased vibrancy in the Newman Building. Reconfiguration of facilities now provides a friendly, welcoming atmosphere and will support an enhanced student and staff experience.

UCD Sutherland School of Law

The UCD School of Law is the largest and most diverse law school in Ireland and is strongly committed to enriching the educational environment of its student body, to working in partnership with the practising legal profession and to establishing links with the international legal community.

In order to meet these objectives, the university proposes to develop a new building to support the related teaching and research activity. These new facilities involve a relocation of the School to a more central location on the campus and will enable it to foster a community environment.

The new 5,110m² building will be part-funded under the National Development Plan 2007–2013, a major gift from Peter Sutherland SC, as well as through resources from the university and other private funding. The new building will create modern and innovative space for the learning and practising of legal skills that does not currently exist in Ireland, and will benefit students,

academics and the legal profession. The UCD Sutherland School of Law will be situated within the precinct of the university's landmark Gateway development.

Student Learning, Leisure and Sports Facility

While the main emphasis in a university is on the generation and dissemination of knowledge, UCD has long recognised that the extra-curricular activities in sport, clubs and societies contribute to developing the student experience. This in turn promotes student involvement and develops a sense of belonging that has been shown to have considerable positive impacts on student retention and academic performance.

Planning approval has been granted by Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown County Council for the development of a new world-class Student Learning, Leisure and Sports facility (SLLS) on the Belfield campus. This new facility will be located between the existing Student Centre and Sports Centre buildings.

Within this extended Student Centre it is intended to provide space for additional student support, leisure and a diverse range of cultural amenities. Facilities to be provided include a new swimming pool and fitness centre, a dance studio, debating chamber, drama theatre, multimedia and seminar rooms, a media centre, student health facilities and café space.

The project was launched this summer with an official sod turning. Enabling works commenced with the relocation of the Hockey Pitch facility. The main construction will start in April 2009, with completion expected in early 2011.

Charles Institute

The Charles Institute will be a facility for research and training in dermatology that will become a national and European centre of excellence. It will attract world leaders in dermatology and will lead to better patient care through the discovery of new treatments and therapies.

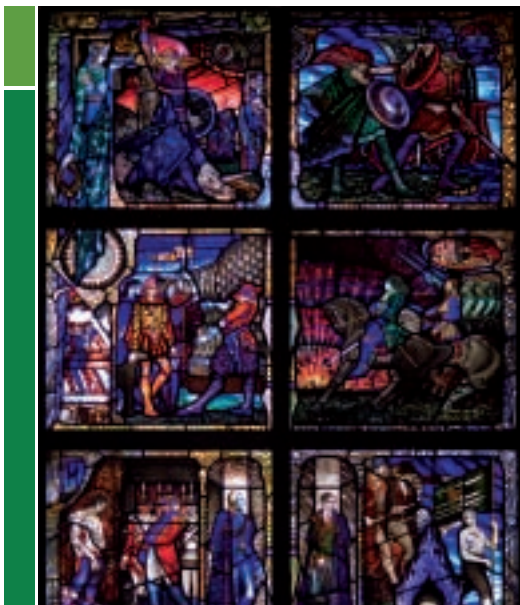
UCD proposes to develop a state-of-the-art research and training facility located between the new Health Sciences Centre and the UCD Conway Institute, integrated with the Clinical Dermatology Unit and UCD's Clinical Research Centre at Dublin Academic Health Care.

UCD and the City of Dublin Skin and Cancer Hospital Charity have provided €18 million to establish a 2,600m² building, which will be located between the UCD Conway Institute and the Health Sciences Centre. The building is projected to be complete in 2010.

Farewell to Earlsfort Terrace

In a year when the Health Sciences Centre was highly commended by the RIAI Irish Architecture Awards, 2008 also heralded the official farewell to Earlsfort Terrace. UCD is keen to ensure that future generations are reminded of the significant role this former seat of education played in both the early establishment of the university and the subsequent development of many student generations.

The Kevin Barry Window will be relocated from Earlsfort Terrace to the UCD Health Sciences Centre



UCD has recently received planning approval for the relocation of the Kevin Barry Window to the Health Sciences Centre. Enhancement works were undertaken this summer in the Health Sciences Centre to generate the 'Terrace', a space that will provide a student-friendly atmosphere and improved communal area. The new social space shall accommodate some light furniture and will also be used as a temporary exhibition space.

Campus boundary

Historically, UCD has prided itself on its rich parkland setting and mature landscaping. Much of this was provided for and planted during the development of the original estates of the 18th and 19th centuries. In more recent years, the physical development of the campus has been

at a more rapid pace. This makes protecting the tree and woodland resources on campus all the more important to ensure viable tree cover is maintained for future generations to enjoy.

Given the considerable development of the campus over the past 10 years, there has been a conscious decision to collectively increase the number of trees on campus. Thus, in tandem with the preservation of the existing trees and landscaping, UCD has actively enhanced tree avenues and wooded areas. This serves to improve the environment and boost the overall quality of life for all living and working on the campus.

UCD is currently expanding its woodlands to form a coherent campus perimeter, which will also be developed as a jogging, cycling and walking track. Once finished, this track will extend around the boundary of the campus, providing a 6.5km route and reasserting the presence of the woodland threshold.

Sustainability on Belfield campus

The successful transition to a sustainable campus involves all aspects of the university community to act collectively. UCD is fortunate enough to have a full-time Energy Unit to champion energy efficiency on campus.

In light of this, in early 2008 the Governing Authority approved a comprehensive energy policy and strategy for UCD.

The university has reduced Belfield campus carbon-dioxide emissions by 9,000 tonnes per annum through a number of initiatives, including the installation of a 1MW wood-pellet biomass boiler, the procurement of green-energy supply and the implementation of various energy-efficient measures.

Currently, 30% of the Belfield total electricity requirement is produced on campus by using Combined Heat and Power (CHP); the remainder is provided by Airtricity, 89% of which is renewable.

Over a three-year period, the Energy Unit has successfully implemented a trial initiative to reduce energy consumption in 10 university buildings by 11%. This initiative is now being extended across all university buildings. The possibility of deep geothermal heating systems, which source natural energy from the ground, is also being explored.

In 2007, 2,675 tonnes of waste were collected from UCD, 83% of which was either recycled or used in the waste-energy industry. This illustrates not only UCD's proactive role in light of waste management, but also its commitment to the provision of an overall more sustainable campus.

Other developments

Recent works at the university crèche included the installation of a new all-weather rubberised play-safe surface. The provision of new toys, climbing



A new all-weather rubberised play-safe surface was installed at the UCD crèche

frames and a bamboo maze has generated an exciting environment for children to play and learn.

Planning approval is now in place for the IDA-funded National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training (NIBRT), which will be developed near the Fosters Avenue entrance. Detailed building design and contract procurement is ongoing. It is envisaged that the new facility will be operational in 2010.

The university has just completed the exchange of lands at Thornfield (approx. three acres) for a similar size tract of land at the rear of the Belgrove Student Residences. The land previously formed part of the site of the nursing home operated by the Little Sisters of the Poor. This will present the university with the opportunity to further develop the Belgrove Student Residences. The university will maintain its operations at Thornfield until early 2010.

A planning application for the site at Whiteoaks will be issued shortly by Pamarette, with the support of the university. This former Smurfit headquarters site, which adjoins the Belfield campus at Beech Hill, was purchased by Pamarette in 2003. The university entered into this development project to fund the acquisition of the former Philips site.

Sculpture developments at UCD



The university has recently added artwork by Jason Ellis and Edward Delaney to its growing collection. Ellis's *Figurehead* is a significant abstract stone sculpture, representative of the prow of a ship, and is believed by its creator to be the largest free-standing stone sculpture in Ireland.

It took more than 10 months to sculpt the blocks of stone that make up the sculpture. The honed finish, visible on the completed sculpture, was all applied by hand. *Figurehead* is located at the Owenstown entrance to Belfield, UCD.

Celtic Twilight (pictured left), a six-metre high steel rod and tubular stainless steel sculpture created by Delaney in 1974, was donated to UCD in September 2007 by developer David Arnold in memory of his father. The sculpture, which was originally located in the American Airlines Building on Baggot St, Dublin, is on permanent display in the courtyard of the UCD Conway Institute.

UCD Library

UCD Library has drafted a new strategic plan following consultation with the teaching and learning, and research communities. The vision for the next five years is to develop the Library's services, resources and facilities in a dynamic and innovative manner to a standard appropriate to that of a leading research-intensive European university. It will support research by building research resources, delivering mediated and unmediated services to researchers at all levels and by enhancing the university's research enterprise by presenting and showcasing the university's research outputs in an institutional repository. The Library will support the teaching and learning experience by developing and improving services that support learning, and by providing a world-class learning environment that will support a diversity of research and learning needs. It also hopes to achieve this by developing a virtual library space with associated online services using Web 2.0 technologies.

Progress to date

A benchmarking exercise was undertaken to compare the UCD Library to similar university libraries worldwide, following which the Library Strategic Plan 2009–2013 was drafted, taking on board the university's strategic direction with particular reference to teaching and learning, and research support.

An Operational Plan for 2008–09 was drawn up to begin to implement some of the recommendations in the draft Strategic Plan.

UCD Library continued to improve its position among academic libraries in Ireland and Great Britain as a leading innovator using Web 2.0 technologies, most recently by establishing a presence on Facebook. It hosted several visitors from *Universitas 21* universities who were interested in the Library's developments in Web 2.0 technology, its pilot implementation of radio frequency identification (RFID) technology in the short-loans collection and its work on Information Literacy support.

In support of research, work commenced on an institutional repository, initially gathering the work of UCD's economists as part of the Network of European Economists Online project. There are now approximately 450 items available in the repository. Also, the Library is participating in the IUA sectoral project, funded by SIF, to put in place a network of institutional repositories in the Irish university sector.

Additional reader spaces were created in the James Joyce Library for improved seating and workspace use, as low-use stock was moved to the new storage facility at Newstead.

The Library restructured its organisation into Library Academic Services Support where staff are linked more directly with UCD's five Colleges. Appointments to the new Deputy Head positions were also made.

Notable achievements

- Sean Phillips retired in March 2008 after 30 years in the post of University Librarian;
- Opening of the *Beckett Country* Photographic Exhibition, 14 April 2008, based on the donation by Professor Eoin O'Brien of a series of 33 panels of photographs marking the life of Samuel Beckett;
- Professor Andrew Carpenter donated a series of Le Brocqy sketches prepared for the publication of his book *Eight Irish Writers*;
- A section of the Austin Clarke Library, on permanent loan from Poetry Ireland to UCD Library Special Collections, was displayed in custom-built oak cabinets on Level 2 in the James Joyce Library;
- Work has commenced on adding a significant donation of volumes from the Confucius Institute to the catalogue;
- Richview Library was completely recabled during summer 2008, bringing network connectivity and power to library users with laptops;
- Work has commenced on identifying the electronic 'face', which the library will develop over the next 12 months, to enhance use of library resources and access to online help and instruction;
- Testing and commitment to port the Library website in the new university content

management system was agreed during the year;

- Laptop lending was introduced in the Health Sciences and James Joyce libraries;
- Conversion of the James Joyce Library short-loan collection to RFID readable loans, which took place this summer, will provide a significant level of service improvement for library users, allowing fast and efficient access when service desks are closed.

Future objectives

- Increase the number of monograph resources to support teaching, learning and research;
- Embed information literacy skills in all programmes as part of the university's graduate attributes objective in the draft Educational and Student Experience Strategy 2009–13;
- Include electronic theses in the institutional repository and integrate the Institutional Repository with the Research Content Management system for seamless updating of research publications;
- Implement state-of-the-art search tools (Metalib and SFX) to enhance seamless access to all library and information resources;
- Implement a pilot alerting service to university administrators in accordance with agreed relevant customised and tailored profiles;
- Develop a building development plan for the library to provide state-of-the-art reading, study and research facilities, with adequate provision for specialised uses and activities.

Institutional Research Repository for UCD Library



The project team (front row, from left): Liam Cleere, Gary Mahon, Carmel Norris and Jennifer Collery. Back row (from left): Gavin Henrick, Ros Pan, Lisa Ryan and David Gallagher

In February 2008, UCD Library and Enovation Solutions completed the development of an open-access institutional repository to collect, preserve and disseminate the full-text research outputs of UCD researchers.

The repository was chosen by UCD Library because of its open source flexibility, successful use by other Irish universities and the availability of local support.

The Library is piloting the repository with the UCD Schools of Economics, Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy and the UCD Geary Institute. The innovative development is part of a three-year project initiated by the IUA Librarians' Group and part-funded through the Higher Education Authority Strategic Innovation Fund.

UCD IT Services

UCD IT Services' strategic plan has five major themes designed to enhance the IT environment for students and staff, in support of the university's education and research objectives:

- **Student Mobility:** Developing and implementing student IT services that are accessible on and off campus in a fully mobile environment;
- **Research Infrastructure:** Implementing core services of storage, hosting and computing facilities for UCD research groups, with a specialised research IT training and support team;
- **Information Management:** Providing easy web-based access to information resources, with new systems interfaces to support key business processes;
- **Education Technology and e-Learning:** Developing new technology-enabled learning spaces with lecture capture and pilot services for innovative e-Learning initiatives;
- **UCD Web:** Implementing new web services and an enhanced portal environment, including UCD Intranet.

Each incoming student received a mobile disk-key on completion of an induction course

Progress to date

During 2007, mobile services were greatly enhanced for students and staff with the introduction of a new Mobile Broadband service. The national service was introduced in August 2007 following trials with both UCD students and staff earlier in the year. In collaboration with HEAnet, a deal for students at 50% below typical market prices was negotiated. UCD IT Services provided a new UCD Connect interface with greatly enhanced services for students in the new mobile environment – 20 key applications are now available, email space has increased to 1GB, Web file storage of 2GB is available and there is a mobile disk-key for incoming students.

Research IT services have been expanded to meet the demands of major research projects, including greater hosting capacity in the Daedalus Data Centre. Large cluster-computing facilities have been hosted for the UCD School of Electrical,



Electronic and Mechanical Engineering, the UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics and the UCD Conway Institute. With the assistance of HEA equipment funding, the storage capacity has been increased to 430TB and a 'storage-on-demand' service introduced for research users. Management of the UCD website was improved with the introduction of a content-management system (CMS) and the provision of training and support services for staff and Schools to assist in converting existing web pages. Search tools were enhanced with the introduction of a Google search appliance that can index the entire UCD Web content. The UCD prospective student portal MyUCD was implemented and launched in October 2007. UCD Research, in collaboration with UCD IT Services, designed and implemented a portal for research users.

A technology survey of students was run for the second time in April 2008. Results showed UCD students are avid users of laptops (82%), wireless

One of UCD IT Services' new enhanced learning spaces



technology (56%), the university online library (81%) and e-Learning (82%).

The state-of-the-art Daedalus Data Centre was originally constructed in 2006 using water-cooled technology, which provides the capability to host high-end compute environments in a very efficient manner. Since its inception, there has been major take-up of the Data Centre by UCD research users and the installation of a national cluster is a key development for Research IT capabilities in UCD. The Research IT team supports UCD hosting,

storage and compute facilities in the Centre, while the Irish Centre for High-End Computing (ICHEC) will support and manage the national cluster.

Future objectives

In 2008, UCD IT Services conducted a review of requirements for the next five years and completed its IT strategy as part of the university strategic planning process. Key objectives for the next phase of development include:

- Developing core infrastructure for Education and Research, including ICT facilities and classroom technology, Data Centre capacity and storage for research;
- Implementing e-content services to support teaching, while continuing to expand new learning spaces which are fully technology enabled;
- Developing data-management capabilities to support Research IT, expanding storage and high-performance compute capacity;
- Providing web-based user-oriented services to support administrative and student services;
- Ensuring UCD Web is easy to manage and improving search, content management and access to services in the portal environment and Intranet.

UCD hosts National Compute Cluster in partnership with ICHEC

In June 2008, agreement was reached with the Irish Centre for High-End Computing (ICHEC) to host a new national compute cluster in the Daedalus Data Centre, Belfield. The Data Centre was expanded by 50% during the summer and the new facility brought live in July 2008. UCD will host the 2,560-core cluster for ICHEC and will also purchase dedicated capacity for UCD users.



UCD IT Services provided a new UCD Connect interface with greatly enhanced services for students

Careers and Employment

Key points for the development of the UCD Careers and Appointments Office include:

- Rebranding the UCD Career Development Centre within the overall context of the UCD Strategic Plan, creating a first-class student-focused unit to support the development of the students of UCD and to provide timely and relevant career-related interventions;
- Enhancing electronic resources to more effectively provide a quality experience of UCD students in the 21st century;
- Restructuring the operational and physical environment, thus providing a conducive careers library and information service for students conducting careers research;
- Building external relations with national and international employers and professional bodies;
- Staff involvement with the professional body Graduate Careers Ireland on various committees and working groups.

Progress to date

The in-house publications and marketing material has been redesigned and developed to encompass the recently rebranded Career Development Centre.

The introduction of stand-up-and-surf web units, along with the new Communication Room, has proved a popular and invaluable resource since inception.

More than 200 companies and prospective employers of graduates visited campus over two semesters and the development of relationships with leading Irish and UK industries have been further strengthened by recent onsite visits to 25 companies.

Notable achievements

- UCD hosted 100-plus employers at two Careers Fairs in O'Reilly Hall with 4,000 students attending both events;
- In February 2008, 25 presentations were scheduled during an inaugural Careers Week which saw 50 speakers – many UCD alumni – delivering presentations on numerous UCD programmes;
- The development of a credit-based Careers Education Module to be implemented in academic year 2008/09;
- Sandra Walker, Careers Adviser at UCD Career Development Centre, had two careers-related publications published nationally: *Student Guide to Career Planning and Job Search* (co-author), and *Career Guide for Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*;

- A comprehensive programme of careers seminars and workshops were offered during semester 1 and 2 to all students.

Future objectives

- Be the university of choice for top Irish and international employers;
- Ensure all services are marketed effectively;
- Collaborate with UCD Alumni by establishing a database of alumni willing to present on career progression;
- A proposal is currently being drafted for a Career Development Advisory Service for fourth-level and postdoctoral fellows. This is in line with recommendations made to the UCD Senior Management Team from the HEA and Research Careers Paths projects. It is also in line with predicted growth of fourth-level students as outlined in the government's Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation;
- UCD Career Development Centre to project manage and produce an online Career Information resource to help career planning and career decision-making in collaboration with UCD Student Recruitment, UCD Programme Marketing Managers and IT Services;
- Staff to continue working with Graduate Careers Ireland at executive and committee level, attending a range of Continuing Professional Development Courses, including national and international conferences to mirror best-practice sharing and networking of ideas for UCD Career Development Centre.

UCD Student Medical and Counselling Services

The mission statement of the UCD Student Medical 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 healthcare services.

The Student Counselling Service provides a confidential psychological support and individual counselling service to students. The service encompasses assessment, psychotherapy and referral service for students. It also provides a consultative service to university staff in respect of concerns they may have with regard to individual students.

Progress to date

Medical Service

The UCD Student Medical Service continued its extended opening hours. During term, it opens during lunchtime, opens early two mornings a week and has two evening clinics. This means a significantly improved level of service to students.

The service has had a successful year of liaising with the Students' Union on Health Promotion. Special thanks go to Moira O'Loughlin in Administration; Nurse Geraldine McDermott; Student Welfare Officer Vivian Rath; Dr Fiona Thompson; and Caroline Ward, Student Counsellor.

Some examples of activities include:

- Vice-President's emails alerting students to relevant health issues on the web;
- Talk on sports and drugs;
- Distribution of contraceptive packs;
- Promotion of mumps and meningitis vaccine;
- Speaker series from doctors and alcohol counsellor;
- Sexual Health Awareness Drive.

The Medical Service continued with the services of the alcohol counsellor, Donal Kiernan, who works as part of the Student Health Service team. Seeing students in this way lessens the stigma associated with alcohol problems and makes it easier for students to take the first step.

Joe Conway provided a Sports Injury/Specialist Musculoskeletal Clinic. He has considerable expertise in the area of sports injury and sports medicine. This is a very valuable addition to the services for students in covering not just sports injuries but musculoskeletal problems in general.

Plans are ongoing to update the website, which is used as a health promotion tool and includes information of relevance to students, including

details about the MMR vaccination, meningitis awareness, stress and sexual health.

The Student Health Service, in co-operation with the UCD Library Service, has developed a Books on Prescription Scheme. Its aim is to help students manage their own physical and emotional health. It is a type of guided self-help using a list of books endorsed by doctors, nurses and psychologists. Students are prescribed a book by the medical team, a counsellor, the Students' Union or other welfare staff, which they can borrow from the UCD Library.

The Medical Service designed the Useful Numbers Leaflet, a credit card-sized leaflet with telephone numbers students may need, including emergency numbers, helplines and student welfare staff. It incorporates the Please Talk campaign logo and information on alcohol and the body. The aim of the project was to ensure students had access to information when they needed it.

Counselling Service

Two additional psychologists have been recruited to the service. They will begin in the academic year 2008/09.

Student Counselling presented at the President's Orientation for first-year students and participated in the other campus Orientations Programmes. It will expand this role to Orientations for Mature Students and New ERA and Access Students in 2008/09.

The Student Counselling Service, in conjunction with the Students' Union, expanded its on-campus *Mental Health and Well-Being* lunchtime talks for students, which were held weekly in the Student Centre and covered such areas as exam stress, procrastination, friendships and relationships, depression and time management. Supportive textual material relating to the talks was provided through the student newspaper, *The Observer*.

The Service linked with colleagues in other third-level sectors as well as with the IUA and College Counsellors to develop a database of problems presenting in student counselling.

The Student Counselling Service assisted in the development, implementation and evaluation of the Pilot Peer Mentoring Programme and supported the extension of this programme to other Schools in the university. It collaborated with the Students' Union in the Alumni Project Document on Staff Helping Students in Distress, to be completed in autumn 2008.

External networking was undertaken with such bodies as Aware, Grow, The Internet Advisory Board, Awareness Education and Bodywhys to inform students about these supportive organisations.

Links were made with the Association of Managers of Student Services in Higher Education whose function is to inform and support the directors of student services and to represent, advocate for and promote the student experience.

The Student Counselling Service in UCD was admitted to the British Heads of University Counselling Services (HUCS) and integrated onto its email system for ongoing dialogue and information with regard to student issues.

The Student Counselling Service was privileged to host the first HUCS Annual Summer Meeting and Management Seminar in June 2008 in the UCD Quinn School of Business, the theme of which was *Who's Afraid of Mental Health? Our Changing Roles*. The Director of Student Counselling in UCD gave the keynote address on *The Roles, Rights and Responsibilities of Student Counselling Services in Higher Education*.

Future objectives

Medical Service

- Develop Sports Injury Clinic;
- Continue to work with Students' Union on Health Promotion;
- Upgrade and develop practice software;
- Develop and promote Books on Prescription scheme;
- Develop Audit, Peer Review and on-site clinical meetings;
- Investigate various funding options to enhance the range of medical services offered to students.

Counselling Service

- Continuation and expansion of core counselling service and psychoeducational programmes for students;
- Increase in opening hours from September 2008 to include some early morning and regular evening sessions;
- A clinical training placement is planned for September 2008, which will expand the core counselling service;
- Resumption and expansion in 2008/09 of the Academic Staff Seminar Series to assist staff dealing with students in distress;
- Expansion of the on-campus lunchtime talks to cover such areas as settling into college, depression, gambling, bereavement, time-management and exam stress;
- Publication of an additional range of psychoeducational brochures to inform and assist students with matters of student concern.

Results of a technology survey in April 2008 showed UCD students are avid laptop users, making the internet a key channel for communicating with students



UCD Student Advisers and Chaplaincy

The Student Advisers continued in 2007/08 to build on the objective of providing a dynamic support service to UCD students. The recognition of the student advisers as a fundamental part of the new college structures and an essential ingredient for improving the student experience in UCD was further marked by the addition of two new student advisers in 2007/08, bringing the total to 12.

Progress to date

During 2007/08, Student Advisers were involved in organising such events as Orientation, the Retention Forum, Peer Mentoring, the Community Musical and Cultural Diversity Week. They also participated in committees such as the Residences Committee, Health Promotions Committee, Symposiums on Community, Student Welfare Committee, Student Assistance Committee and Crèche Committee.

Some highlights of 2007/08 included:

- Peer Mentoring was rolled out to include all Science, New ERA and Agricultural Science students;
- Retention Forum: a HEA-sponsored project, reporting UCD retention statistics from the past two years, was managed by a Student Adviser and the Deputy Admissions Officer;
- Cultural Diversity Week: organised by a Student Adviser in conjunction with the Students' Union, an addition to the 2007/08 Week was an exhibition, brought to the campus by Suas Soc and Concern, entitled *1,000 Families*. These portraits of families from across the world by photographer Uwe Ommer are part of an international campaign called Building Unity Through Diversity;
- *West Side Story*: With a Student Adviser as producer and the Vice-President for Students as the originator of this first UCD Community Musical, the production was a huge success, with a cast and crew of both staff and students and sell-out performances each night;
- Student Advisers presented at the Third European First-Year Experience Conference in the UK and the Conference of the International Mentoring Association in the USA;
- Student Advisers in conjunction with the Students' Union and the Chinese Students and Scholars Association raised over €13,000 in the China Earthquake Appeal Fund, which was sent to the Red Cross Society of China.

Future objectives

- Addition of the Disability Officer to the Student Advisers network, which will increase the number of Student Advisers to 13;
- Extension of the Peer Mentoring programme across Human Sciences, Veterinary Medicine, Law and some programmes in Health Sciences;
- Promotion of Student Advisers through participation in committees, event management and leaflet distribution in each of the first-year student-information packs and to members of staff;
- Building on the work of previous years in furthering the goal of enhancing the student experience in UCD.

UCD 'Please Talk' student support campaign goes national



The 'Please Talk' student support campaign is to encourage students who are struggling with anxiety to begin to perceive seeking help as a sign of strength rather than one of weakness. The chaplains and student advisers in UCD initiated the original campaign when the GAA star Seán Óg Ó hAilpín launched it. Due to its success the campaign was launched on a national level in March 2008. At the official national launch in Newman House, Dr Hugh Brady, President of UCD, said the campaign is a hopeful message to young people and serves as a reminder that there is no shame in reaching out for help.

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 that 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. It is administered on behalf of the Student Assistance Committee by Ann O’Hanlon, Student Adviser, UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics. It is funded by the Department of Education and Science, with assistance from the ESF through the NDP.

The **UCD Student Childcare Assistance Fund** assists student parents most in need of financial

assistance and offers a contribution towards childcare costs. This 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 UCD Student Childcare Assistance Fund Committee, which meets regularly. The Chair is Anna Farrell, Student Adviser, based in the UCD Health Sciences Centre.

For the academic year 2007/08, UCD had available €745,000 to assist students who find themselves in financial difficulty. Of this sum, €157,000 was allocated to the Student Welfare Fund, €157,000 to the Student Assistance Fund and €117,000 to the UCD Student Childcare Assistance Fund Scheme. The remaining sum, €314,000, was allocated to the New ERA fund. These funds ensure that students receive financial support as they follow their dream at UCD.

Student Complaints Office

UCD regards its students as full members of the university and, as such, entitled to be treated with fairness and equality. Recognising that students need a clear framework within which to tackle problems that they may encounter within the university, UCD has established a structure to ensure that students have accessible, consistent and efficient procedures for the resolution of legitimate student complaints, in accordance with the principles of natural justice, equity and fair treatment.

The Student Complaints Office was created by the Academic Council in February 2007 and set up in July 2007 with the appointment of a part-time UCD Student Complaints Officer. The main task for the Office during the year was to establish its procedures and consider appropriate approaches to complaint resolution. During the academic year 2007/08, the Office handled 30 complaints from the student body.

In the immediate future, the priority for the Office is to provide information to next year’s student body on the existence of the Office and of the scope of its services.

UCD Sport

UCD Sport's strategic plan aspires to:

- Deliver a quality health and life wellness experience for all university students;
- Increase the numbers participating in sports, exercise and recreation. Current figures stand at 8,000;
- Provide excellent multi-purpose facilities that accommodate a wide range of sports;
- Provide a High-Performance Centre for elite-level athletes across numerous sports.

Progress to date

- Completion of IRB-approved full-sized Rugby All-Weather Pitch in September 2007;
- Completion of Gaelic All-Weather Pitch (Devlin Park) in November 2007;
- Completion of stage one of the UCD Bowl development. The 1,500-seater stadium is the shared homeground facility for UCD AFC and UCD RFC. UCD held their first home game at UCD Bowl in March 2008;
- Relocation of the polygrass Hockey Pitch to a site beside the Rugby All-Weather Pitch;
- Further rollout of the Get in Gear Programme, heading into its fourth year. The programme introduced over 450 individuals in 2007/08 to exercise and health awareness through its innovative and individually tailored programme.

In a unique sporting venture, UCD Soccer Club joined its rugby counterparts in a ground-sharing arrangement in the UCD Bowl with the first game of the Eircom League on 7 March 2008. A late goal from Derry City's Peter Hutton denied UCD a point with a final score of 3–2. The Club departed their homeground in Belfield Park at the end of last season after 29 years.

The 56th Colours game at Donnybrook saw the UCD Rugby Team cruise to a 50–20 victory, beating All-Ireland League Division Two opponents TCD.

UCD Ladies Volleyball Team once again proved to be the best, winning their third title Student Cup in a row on 16 and 17 February 2008 at Leeds University and Leeds Metropolitan University.

The UCD Sports Centre, in conjunction with the UCD Students' Union and the Sport Section of the Irish Wheelchair Association, held the inaugural O2-sponsored Wheelchair Basketball Competition, the first of its kind in a third-level institute in Ireland.



The UCD Ladies Volleyball Team won their third title Student Cup

The UCD Boat Club and UCD Ladies' Boat Club have had a fantastic year, with a clean sweep in the 60th Colours Competition, wins in the Neptune Head, the Lagan Head, St Michael's Head, the Neptune Regatta and the Commercial Regatta. A win in the Dublin Head was a first in 35 years and a major achievement for the club. The squad also won the University Championships at Intermediate level and the Novice National Championship of Ireland in 2007.

Eight UCD Lacrosse players were selected to represent Ireland, while a number of UCD staff were selected to coach.

The UCD Table Tennis Club celebrated its Diamond Jubilee year in style, as the UCD first



The UCD Boat Club won the Dublin Head, a first in 35 years

team retained its team title with victory at the Intervarsities in DCU in February, winning the title for the ninth year in a row and, in the process, breaking the record set by TCD from 1949 to 1956.

At the All-Ireland Intervarsity Road Championship in March the UCD Ladies Cycling Team retained the title they captured in Belfast last year, winning the team race in the Phoenix Park. Louise Moriarty also won the individual title, creating history by being the first woman to retain the crown.

The UCD Men's Basketball first team successfully defended their University Championship title for the third year running in DCU when they beat UUU 65–48 in the final.

The UCD Senior Camogie Team retained the Ashbourne Cup, beating Waterford IT 5–9 to 0–9 at Casement Park. The team completed a fantastic season with victory in the O'Maolagain Cup, the All-Ireland Camogie Intervarsity sevens, after victory over Waterford IT.

The UCD Equestrian Club enjoyed much success at the National Intervarsities Tetrathlon Championships, which took place in QUB. The team secured the gold medal, beating 30 teams. The Prix Capprilli competition at the National Equestrian Intervarsities saw the club secure the gold medal, beating 59 competitors. In terms

of individual honours, UCD won the individual Dressage title, beating 80 other individuals.

At the UCD Budweiser Sports Achievement Awards ceremony on 24 April 2008 in the UCD Student Centre almost 300 students were honoured for their sporting achievements on behalf of the university over the past year. Equestrian club captain Dean Cobbe was named the Dr Tony O'Neill Sportsperson of the Year, while the UCD Men's Boat Club captain, Jason Brooke, was awarded the Gerry Horkan Club Administrator of the Year. Dublin County Championship winner for UCD and All-Ireland and National League Winner Paul Ormond was awarded the David O'Connor Memorial Medal Veterinary Sports Person of the Year.

In recognition of the achievements of the UCD Boat Club oarsmen, cox and coach in the 1948 Olympics, the UCD Boat Naming Ceremony on 29 June 2008 saw the new boat officially named *Olympian*. Also recognised were two participants at the 1976 Montreal Olympics and the Senior VIII crew that won the 1974 Ladies Challenge Plate, UCD's only win at Henley. The ceremony closed with the unveiling of a Captain's and President's Board. The board is now on permanent display in the Sports Centre.

Peter Lawrie, a former UCD golf scholarship student, came from five strokes behind overnight in the Spanish Open on 2 May 2008 to beat Spaniard Ignacio Garrido in a sudden-death playoff and claim his first European Tour title.

Future objectives

The plans to position sport and health as a core activity at UCD continue to evolve for all of the student and staff populations, as well as the wider community. Significant resources are committed to enhance the effort to provide a 'best practice' university experience at Belfield with landmark additional sports infrastructure as evidenced by the development of the new Student Swimming, Leisure and Recreation Centre. UCD Sport intends to deliver a Regional Centre of Excellence as part of the government's national sports strategy. UCD Sport will continue to promote the 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.

Louise Moriarty of the UCD Ladies Cycling Team created history by being the first woman to retain the individual title crown



UCD Music

UCD maintains a wide range of performing ensembles, offering students the chance to explore music of different ages and styles. The choirs and orchestras are open to anyone who has an interest in and talent for music and wants to pursue this passion. Their goal is to provide an opportunity for UCD students to engage in music-making of the highest order and to present the results of their hard work to a substantial and appreciative audience.

Progress to date

Entering its 10th anniversary, UCD Choral Scholars is the university's award-winning vocal ensemble. Founded in 1998, it has become a cultural ambassador for UCD, achieving significant recognition on campus and in the wider music community for its standard of performance and versatility. It continues to perform for guests of the university at the prestigious UCD Foundation Day Dinner, at student events around campus and, increasingly, with professional performing ensembles outside the university.

UCD Choral Scholars is a choral ensemble of musically talented students from across UCD. The scheme provides a professional learning and performing environment for these students through a varied and challenging programme developed for the Scholars each academic year by artistic director Desmond Earley.

In order to further distinguish UCD Choral Scholars, a portfolio of customised material has been especially arranged and adapted for the ensemble to create a distinctiveness in sound character. These arrangements, and a commitment to new music, place UCD Choral Scholars in an unrivalled place at the frontier of music-making in Ireland.

The aim of the UCD Symphony Orchestra (founded by its current artistic director Ciarán Crilly in 2002 as the UCD Sinfonia) was to establish a large-scale music ensemble of which UCD could be proud. In 2007, it was relaunched as the UCD Symphony Orchestra (UCDSO) in order to reflect its increased size and status. The UCDSO made its fourth annual appearance at the National Concert Hall in April 2008 with its biggest ever audience (almost 1,000) and has now confirmed itself as one of the best non-professional orchestras in the country.

Among the UCDSO's greatest achievements are:

- Expanding from fewer than 20 members to 80 in the space of two and a half years;
- Becoming a regular part of the National Concert Hall schedule;



UCD Choral Scholars. Pictured (from left) are Ann McLaughlin, Cristina McGrath and Elizabeth McLaughlin

- Setting up scholarships for students to take part in the orchestra (up to 15 are now being awarded each year);
- Establishing the UCDSO as a recognised elective or programme module under the *UCD Horizons* scheme (presently being taken by over 30 students).

Future objectives

In celebrating its Decennial Year, the RTÉ Concert Orchestra will present two concerts with the UCD Choral Scholars and Alumni, one at the National Concert Hall in December 2008 with Cara O'Sullivan (soprano), and the second, *Deutsches Requiem* by Brahms, at St Patrick's Cathedral (spring 2009). In addition, the Scholars will launch an Intervarsity Choral Festival at UCD, and the students will have an opportunity to work with one of Scotland's leading wind ensembles, The Giondar Ensemble.

The UCDSO aims to continue its rapid rate of growth, both in terms of numbers applying for membership and the quality of its players and performances. In the coming year, it is to perform a film concert with live screenings, an event it hopes to replicate in the future, as well as a 'Russian Spectacular' at the National Concert Hall. It is hoped that audience expansion shall continue apace until the UCDSO is in a position to sell out the National Concert Hall.

Student Society Activity

The environment of UCD provides a vibrant social life to all members of the university. Each of UCD's student societies offers significant opportunity for personal development, particularly with regard to life skills such as people management, organisation and time management.

Progress to date

Numbers participating in societies remain solid overall. The largest societies in the university now have in excess of 4,000 members enrolled. Several new societies are contributing to the student landscape, including the Russian Society and the Gaisce Society.

Over 2,000 second-level students visited the campus in January for the second year of the

Dramsoc Leaving Certificate production, which this year was *Othello*.

A new initiative this year was the Newman fund, which operated under the Office of the Vice-President for Students. The fund is designed to allow for one-off contributions towards student events and activities that otherwise don't fit under normal club and society activity.

The Literary and Historical Society (L&H) took the title of UCD Society of the Year 2008, while An Cumann Gaelach, celebrating its centenary year, took the Small Society of the Year award. The L&H also picked up the awards for Best Poster and Best Event. UCD Dramsoc once again topped the awards at the Irish Student Drama Festival, receiving the most nominations and the most awards, and taking the award for 'Best Overall Production' for the fourth year in a row.

The debating societies continued to enjoy national and international success, winning the Cork and Trinity Intervarsities and Irish Mace, as well as taking the Individual title at the *Irish Times* Final, held in Belfield. Three teams made it to the finals of the World Debating Championships in Thailand, while UCD reached fifth place in the World Debate rankings, moving ahead of Yale.

Guests to the societies in the past 12 months included actors Will Ferrell and Ralph Fiennes, authors JK Rowling and Jung Chang and comedian and travel presenter Michael Palin.

Future objectives

The UCD Strategic Plan underlined the importance of societies and society activity in the development and the sustainment of plentiful and quality-driven extra-curricular educational, cultural and social activities for students. In conjunction with the UCD Centre for Service Learning, Community Engagement and Volunteering, the move towards the provision of accreditation for extra-curricular activity will continue.

Societies will continue to contribute to the Student Ambassador programme, and will take an active role in planning for the new Student Centre.

Harry Potter author JK Rowling at UCD

JK Rowling visited UCD to receive the James Joyce Award from the UCD Literary and Historical Society on 12 February 2008. The author was greeted with a standing ovation from the 600-member audience. Rowling, who gave an intimate reading from the seventh and final book in the Harry Potter series, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, took part in a 30-minute Q&A session with the audience on her writing career and her fictional characters.



Pictured at the event: Michael McGrath, Auditor of the Literary and Historical Society, with JK Rowling and Harry Potter fan Leonard Caprani, age 10, from Clonskeagh, Dublin

Community Engagement

The UCD Centre for Service Learning, Community Engagement and Volunteering (CSLCEV) was established in October 2007 to promote and encourage civic engagement. It is committed to providing UCD students with a rounded social education and a strong sense of citizenship, while concentrating on its three main activities to:

- Promote and encourage volunteering;
- Work with UCD staff to develop and promote academic modules that incorporate elements of community engagement;
- Foster links with the not-for-profit sector, especially in the local community.

UCD Volunteers Overseas (UCDVO) offers students at UCD the opportunity to engage in voluntary work in the developing world. UCDVO has grown in scale and complexity since it began when a small group of volunteers travelled to Delhi in 2003. As a registered charity and a signatory of the Comhlámh Code of Ethics, UCDVO adheres to the professional and moral framework of volunteering. To date, more than 350 UCD student and staff volunteers have travelled with UCDVO and approximately 90 places are now offered each year.

Progress to date

Work continues to promote and encourage civic engagement in UCD, and to foster and build on existing links to local community organisations in the following ways:

- UCD is a founding member of Campus Engage, a national network established to promote civic engagement in higher education in Ireland. CSLCEV represents UCD in this network;
- An award, entitled Recognition of Voluntary Engagement (ROVE), sponsored by the UCD Alumni Fund, was launched for students. ROVE acknowledges and promotes volunteering through recognition of the voluntary contribution of UCD students to community life, both on and off campus;
- CSLCEV ran a workshop entitled *Community Engagement in an Academic Context* in May 2008 for UCD faculty and staff. The workshop focused on identifying the challenges and solutions to incorporating elements of community engagement into academic modules in UCD;
- A UCD Connect network group (CBL Group) was established to facilitate networking, information sharing and communication relating to civic engagement among UCD staff across campus;
- CSLCEV established a centre dedicated to promoting the concepts and ideas of civic engagement among UCD staff, students and local communities and organisations;
- CSLCEV actively engages with the UCD Quinn School of Business in the provision of their Level 2 Service Learning elective module;

- This year UCDVO developed a housing project in Gros Morne, Haiti, and in phase one it built nine houses for flood victims and socially disadvantaged members of the community;
- Two health centres have now been built in Nicaragua since UCDVO established the project in collaboration with the Nicaraguan Department of Health in 2007.

Future objectives

The CSLCEV has identified a number of short- and medium-term objectives for academic year 2008/09, including:

- Participation in Volunteer Centres Ireland 'Give it a Swirl' National Volunteering Day on 26 September 2008. Projects with a 'community makeover' theme are completed by groups of volunteers on the day;
- Development and provision for UCD staff of a range of workshops on community-based and service learning, and related topics;
- Facilitation of the development and provision of academic modules, with a focus on community engagement;
- Offer students a series of seminars and briefing sessions, with an emphasis on volunteering and related topics;
- Contribution through the Campus Engage network to the development of policy on civic engagement in the Irish higher-education sector;
- Continued identification and development of links and networking with local community organisations.

Under its current restructuring plans, UCDVO plans to introduce formal project applications and reviews with its host NGOs in India, Haiti and Nicaragua to ensure sustained performance of the projects and build a more equal relationship with the host organisations.

As a UCD society, UCDVO is increasing the input of UCD students at board level and intends to establish a number of action groups to streamline activity and increase student involvement in the day-to-day running of the organisation.

Bike to Beijing 2008

In September 2007, a trio of cyclists (including two past UCDVO volunteers, Conor Rowan and Paul Ryan) set off for the Beijing Olympics. This journey over some 15,000km took 11 months as the intrepid three pedalled across France, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and finally China. This was an adventure but also a fundraising cycle in aid of UCDVO.



UCDVO in Haiti 2008

This year UCDVO commissioned a house design in collaboration with the host organisation, the Sisters of Jesus and Mary, in Haiti. This design sets a new standard of housing in the region. Phase one was completed this summer and it is intended the template will be used by other organisations in the region and on other sites by UCDVO.

6

Shaping Agendas

For more than 150 years, UCD has played a central role in shaping the development of Irish culture, society, history, politics and economy and establishing for Ireland a place amongst the world's nations. This ambition prevails in UCD today, with its focus on providing academic excellence and facilitating leading international research.

Crucial to the continuation of UCD's ability to realise its far-reaching ambitions are its young graduates. By actively pursuing a deeper relationship with its alumni, the university hopes to create external powers of influence that can effect positive change and promote UCD to a global audience.

UCD University Relations provides a cohesive and coherent internal and external communication environment to support UCD's education and research activities.

UCD Development and Alumni Relations aims to provide a lifelong connection between the university and its global alumni and foster a continued spirit of participation, involvement and loyalty. Its fundraising responsibility hopes to persuade UCD alumni to give something back to their alma mater to ensure its continued success, which will benefit future generations of talented students.

In November 2007, UCD hosted Tarja Halonen, the 11th President of the Republic of Finland, at a lunch on human rights in Newman House. Pictured are (from left): Dr Maurice Manning, President of the Irish Human Rights Commission; Dr Pentti Arajärvi, Finnish President's husband; President Tarja Halonen and Dr Pádraic Conway, Vice-President for University Relations



University Relations

Development and Alumni Relations

Special Recognition

University Relations

UCD's reputation, both nationally and internationally, is key in attracting and retaining the best students in Ireland and from overseas. Similarly, reputation and the perception of the university play an important role in bringing the most talented teachers and researchers to work in UCD. Ireland must be portrayed as a confident, talent-filled country, a magnet for R&D, and UCD as an institution that is pushing the knowledge frontier and a natural home for cutting-edge research and innovation.

UCD University Relations works to communicate key defining messages from the university to internal stakeholders and externally, through the media, to national and international audiences. The primary focus is to support the university's aims and assist in achieving its objectives through the skilled use of external communications media and tools, as well as to support and advise on internal communication procedures and practice. Specifically, this involves managing the central strategic marketing, media relations, public relations, internal communications and major event-management activities for the university.

Progress to date

In the past year a number of key projects were initiated to advance communication capacity throughout the university.

A major review of 48 academic websites was conducted during the year. An audit of the navigation, content and design used by each School and College identified a number of areas requiring attention. Moreover, the review helped redefine the purpose of the UCD website as a channel for external communication. The financial benefit of operating within the universal template was confirmed as the findings of the audit showed clearly that those Schools that remain within the universal template are able to tailor the web to their own needs, maximise the impact of their content and transfer to the new UCD content management system with least difficulty.

Conscious of the central project looking at graduate and international fees, the graduate marketing projects provide niche marketing campaigns to the Graduate Schools and to individual Schools. A longer-term, more strategic plan will be developed alongside the outcome plan from this project.

The events calendar database is now online and active. In recent months it has been extended to include student events, with the objective of easily facilitating students, staff and visitors to find out what is on in UCD today.

The marketing toolkit provides practical support to Colleges, Schools and Institutes who may not have in-house marketing expertise or experience.

Building on the benchmark report on media monitoring, the Office undertook a further review

of UCD's presence in the national print media. The review provided useful insight into the impact of media relations and demonstrated the value of promoting academic expertise.

Last year, a review of staff-recruitment advertising led to a reinforcement of the advertising policy and practice in this area. Taking this work further, a business plan, including international competitor analysis and measures of the effectiveness of different advertising channels, was completed.

The work of the Office is assisted by the UCD Communication Board, comprising members drawn from the academic community, along with a number of key functions such as student recruitment and NovaUCD. It also involves the Communication Network, which is made up of staff who are specifically employed by different units throughout the university in communication roles.

Notable achievements

UCD is a university that offers its students opportunities that are as good as anywhere in the world. The continued success of *UCD Horizons* is just one example that has led to a 5.2% increase in first preferences in the 2008 CAO applications. Clear communications to students and other relevant stakeholders of the opportunities UCD offers play an important role in attracting and retaining the best national and international students.

Publication of the university's two main magazines, *UCD Connections* and *UCD Today*, continues to provide channels to showcase research discoveries and academic achievement as well as publicising many of the events held on campus. A Publications Advisory Group oversees

The success of UCD Horizons has contributed to a 5.2% increase in first preferences in the 2008 CAO applications



the publications with representatives from across the university. The online news remains the premier channel for coverage of UCD achievements and discoveries.

The University Relations Office provided professional media relations and event management support to many high-profile events, launches and conferences that took place within the university. Below is a sample of some.



Inequalities in health

The findings from a seven-year research programme involving almost 40,000 people ranging from women in early pregnancy, to children, to the elderly, was officially launched by President Mary McAleese at UCD on 20 September 2007. The massive project, conducted by the HRB Unit for Health Status and Health Gain, involved 24 research papers published in a special supplement by the *Irish Medical Journal*. The findings point to pockets of real disadvantage, especially in urban areas, and suggest that special policy effort must be made to reach the most disadvantaged groups and individuals in Irish society.

Four Masters in historic reunion

October 2007 saw the reuniting of *The Annals of the Four Masters* – a chronicle of Irish history from prehistory to 1616 compiled by the Irish Franciscans – for the first time since 1636 in a unique collaborative exhibition between the Irish Franciscans, the Royal Irish Academy, UCD and TCD. Entitled *Writing Irish History: The Four Masters and Their World*, the exhibition forms part of the Louvain 400 commemoration, which celebrates the 400th anniversary of the founding of the Irish Franciscan college of St Anthony’s in Louvain in Belgium.

Finnish President visit

On 13 November 2007, UCD hosted Tarja Halonen, the 11th President of the Republic of Finland, at a lunch on human rights in Newman House. Dr Maurice Manning, President of the Irish Human Rights Commission, and leading academics engaged President Halonen on issues concerning social justice and the promotion of equality, which have been central themes throughout her political career.

Future objectives

Growth of the graduate base both at undergraduate and postgraduate level will entail working to keep the best Irish students and attract top international talent. Communicating the opportunities UCD offers to discrete groups of students will play a vital role in meeting the government's Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation targets, among others.

The web project has presented a footprint for the development of a 'School of best practice' in terms of external communications. Over the coming



Dr Art Cosgrove, Former President of UCD (1994-2003), Dr Paddy Masterson, Former President of UCD (1986-1993), and Dr Hugh Brady, President of UCD, at the official launch of *The Sense of Creation* at Newman House, Dublin

Test may ease breast cancer trauma

In January 2008, scientists at the UCD Conway Institute and St Vincent's University Hospital developed a new enzyme test for newly diagnosed breast cancer patients that could help some women avoid chemotherapy. By measuring the levels of a particular enzyme in the tumour, the test can predict whether the patient's cancer will spread beyond the breast site or not. The findings have been tested and validated by a number of independent groups worldwide in studies involving in excess of 8,000 patients.

Under-investment in universities highlighted

In March 2008 and subsequently working through the Irish Universities Association, Dr Hugh Brady, alongside the presidents of the six other Irish universities, brought attention to the funding crisis within the sector. After a decade of under-investment, core grant funding has fallen progressively in 'real terms' and the universities believe they have reached a tipping point where service quality will begin to suffer.

Book launch by former UCD president

The launch of *The Sense of Creation: Experience and the God Beyond* at Newman House on 25 June 2008 brought past and present UCD presidents together as its author, Dr Paddy Masterson, was joined by Dr Hugh Brady and Dr Art Cosgrove to celebrate this new work, which has been described as a major contribution to contemporary philosophy of religion. At its core, the book explores whether, if all knowledge derives from empirical science and all meaning and value from human subjectivity, God becomes the unneeded hypothesis.

year this will be developed and rolled out to all Schools. The web also offers opportunities for better connection with external audiences through the use of multimedia. The office plans to use the website in a more dynamic way in the coming year.

The staff recruitment advertising plan will be assessed in the context of UCD and other higher-level institutions.

The internal communications function will continue to assist senior management implement their communications plans directed towards staff and students and implement the output from the university work programme in which several projects address communication and decision-making issues.

Development and Alumni Relations

The Development and Alumni Relations Office maintains contact with a highly engaged community of alumni worldwide; leads the university's major fundraising campaigns; and manages all philanthropic income to UCD through the UCD Foundation (Ireland), The John Henry Newman Foundation (USA) and The Friends of UCD (UK).

Contact with alumni was enhanced through a dynamic programme of reunions in O'Reilly Hall for the classes of 1958, 1968 and 1983 known as the Silver, Ruby and Golden Jubilees and a programme of international events is planned for the year ahead. The main vehicle for communication with alumni is *UCD Connections* and the new-look alumni magazine has been overwhelmingly received.

Progress to date

The Newman Fellowship Programme provides research opportunities at postdoctorate level and has, since its inception in 1989, consistently attracted high-calibre researchers whose work has been generously sponsored by business and industry. The total number of Newman Fellows grew to 11 in 2008, funded by A. Menarini, Abbott Laboratories, Actelion, Baxter Healthcare, C&C, Dawn Farm Foods, Merck Serono, Nycomed Products, Piersce Contracting, Sanofi-aventis and Safefood.

The UCD Foundation has prepared the groundwork for a major multi-project fundraising campaign called *The Campaign for UCD: Forming Global Minds*. Five world-class projects have been selected for inclusion in the campaign, the goal of which is to:

- Achieve Ireland's fourth-level leader status;
- Have research at the convergence of disciplines;
- Be recognised as distinctively Irish but with global impact;
- Produce creative and innovative graduates.

Notable achievements

The campaign for the new UCD Sutherland School of Law advanced significantly during the year and fundraising for the €27 million new building is nearing completion. The lead corporate sponsor of the new Law School is A&L Goodbody.

Universities in the UK and USA have an established tradition of asking their alumni to make a gift each year to their alma mater. The goal is to establish a lifelong relationship and to foster a culture of giving back. To this end, UCD Foundation launched its first telephone fundraising campaign in autumn 2007 to create an Alumni Fund. Over the course of the year, some 8,000 graduates have been contacted and €250,000 has been pledged. The purpose of the Alumni Fund is to enhance the quality of the academic, sporting and cultural experience of students while at UCD. In its first year, the Fund supported New ERA scholarships, UCD Choral Scholars, UCD Symphony Orchestra scholarships and the Student Counselling Service.

Future objectives

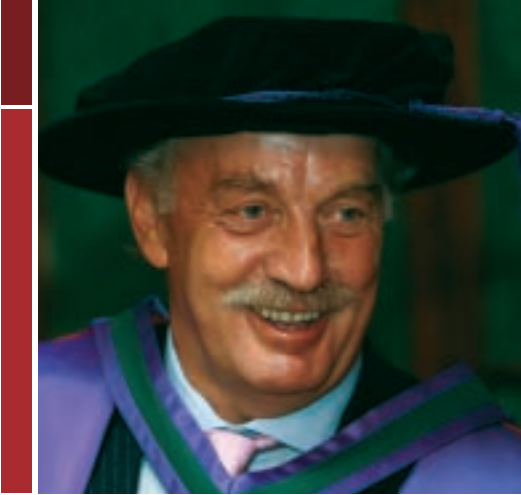
Seeking continuous improvement in the Alumni Relations Programme, the Development and Alumni Relations Office will endeavour to add new reunion events into its programme and will introduce a 10th-anniversary reunion, which will seek to reconnect with 'lost alumni' – graduates the Office has lost contact with because it does not have their up-to-date contact details. To do this, the Office must improve its capability to use digital platforms to reach out to its networks.

In anticipation of a fundraising campaign launch in the year ahead, a professional fundraising team will be appointed to assist the work of UCD Foundation and its brother and sister organisations in the USA and UK.

UCD Connections
alumni magazine



Special Recognition



November 2007

Dermot Desmond

Dermot Desmond was conferred with an honorary Doctor of Laws by UCD on 23 November 2007 in recognition of his outstanding contribution to business innovation and enterprise in Ireland. At the conferring ceremony, he was also presented with the UCD Ulysses Medal, which is awarded to those who have created an entity or body of knowledge that adds significantly to the public good. The latter award acknowledges his pivotal role as the visionary behind the IFSC.



December 2007

Stephen Rea

On 3 December 2007, actor Stephen Rea was conferred with an honorary Doctor of Literature by UCD for 'contributions to the performing arts'. Outside of his professional life, Rea acts as a spokesperson for Cystinosis Ireland and is an ambassador for UNICEF in its HIV/AIDS



Pictured (right) at the official conferring ceremony in O'Reilly Hall were Dr Geoffrey Dean and Anthony Pilaro

Pictured (left): Dermot Desmond was conferred with an honorary Doctor of Laws in November 2007

programmes in sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, he has supported research on HIV/AIDS at UCD and provided practical attention to the work carried out at the Centre for Research in Infectious Diseases at UCD.

June 2008

Dr Geoffrey Dean

Dr Geoffrey Dean was conferred with an honorary Doctor of Science by UCD. Dr Dean was the first scientist to conclude from his medical studies that the causes of multiple sclerosis were both genetic and environmental. In 1968, he was appointed the first director of Ireland's Medico-Social Research Board where he built a research base for the Irish health services. In 2003, he was awarded a CBE by the British government in recognition of his contribution to medical research.

Anthony Pilaro

UCD conferred an honorary Doctor of Laws on Anthony Pilaro in June 2008 in recognition of his philanthropy, and in particular his contributions to Ireland. An attorney and investment banker, Pilaro's philanthropic support in Ireland includes the founding of The Studio exhibition gallery in Dublin and the significant gift he gave to help establish the Centre for Research in Infectious Diseases at UCD.

Each year on 16 June, the anniversary of James Joyce's Bloomsday, UCD presents honorary degrees to people from all walks of life who share a desire to make a difference to society and be a catalyst for change. This year the university honoured seven recipients across the fields of forestry, medicine, journalism, economics, social science, trade unionism and botany.

Actor Stephen Rea was awarded an honorary Doctor of Literature in December 2007

UCD conferred an honorary Doctor of Laws on **Olive Braiden** in recognition of her campaign work for women's rights. In August 2003, she was appointed chair of the Arts Council. A Human Rights Commissioner, a board member of the Courts Service and of the Judicial Appointments Advisory Board, she also chairs the Crisis Pregnancy Agency. Appointed to the Public Service Benchmarking Body in 2006, she is also a member of the London 2012 Olympics Task Force.

Des Geraghty was conferred with an honorary Doctor of Laws by UCD. Formerly an MEP and ex-member of the RTÉ Authority, Geraghty is currently a member of the Board of Poetry Ireland. He became an elected shareholder of the Abbey Theatre in 1998 and was appointed to the board of FÁS the following year. He served on the National Competitiveness Council and is currently a member of the Executive Council of ICTU.

An honorary Doctor of Laws was conferred on **Geraldine Kennedy**, editor of *The Irish Times*. Her early career in journalism saw her work for *The Munster Express*, *The Cork Examiner*, *The Irish Times*, *The Sunday Tribune* and *The Sunday Press*.

Elected to Dáil Éireann in 1987, she was appointed the Progressive Democrats party spokesperson on Foreign Affairs and Northern Ireland. In 1989, she returned to journalism with *The Irish Times*, and was appointed its editor in 2002.

Appointed Chair of Metabolic Medicine and Chair of Clinical Biochemistry and Medicine at the University of Cambridge, **Professor Stephen O'Rahilly** was conferred with an honorary Doctor of Science by UCD. He has acted as a scientific advisor to the Dublin Molecular Medicine Centre and the UCD Diabetes Research Centre. Professor O'Rahilly has won many awards for his research, including the Society for Endocrinology Medal, the European Journal of Endocrinology Prize and the Novartis International Award for Clinical Research in Diabetes.

UCD conferred an honorary Doctor of Laws on **Professor Ji Baocheng**, Registrar and former President of Renmin University of China. He is currently a deputy of the 10th National People's Congress; a member of the Academic Degree Commission of the State Council and its Discipline Assessment Group; a member of the Social

Pictured at the event (from left): Ms Olive Braiden; Mr Des Geraghty; Prof. Stephen O'Rahilly; Prof. Jürgen Huss; UCD President Dr Hugh Brady; Prof. Ji Baocheng; Prof. Xu Zhihong; and Ms Geraldine Kennedy



Sciences Committee of the Ministry of Education; and Vice-President of the China Education Association of International Exchange.

Jürgen Huss was conferred with an honorary Doctor of Science by UCD in recognition of his influence on the Irish government towards the sustainable development of the forestry sector. He has had a close relationship with UCD and was one of the initiators of the Silva network, a European network of forestry universities that enables Irish forestry students to spend a semester abroad and European students to come to UCD and experience the unique nature of Irish forestry.

UCD conferred an honorary Doctor of Laws on **Professor Xu Zhihong** in recognition of his career-long research into plant development and plant biotechnology. Professor Xu worked at the John Innes Institute, Norwich and the University of Nottingham, developing a procedure to improve culture in barley. President of Peking University since 1999, Professor Xu has also chaired the Chinese Society of Cell Biology and the National Committee of Man and the Biosphere Programme of UNESCO.

July 2008

Eddie O'Connor

Eddie O'Connor, founder and CEO of Mainstream Renewable Power, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science by UCD in July 2008. O'Connor founded Airtricity Holdings in 1997 and served as the company's CEO until its sale in January 2008. His current ambition is to build the European Offshore Supergrid which will guarantee European energy self-sufficiency and the production of carbon-free electricity. He is secretary of the European Wind Energy Association.



Cell biology expert Professor Shuh Narumiya was awarded the UCD Ulysses Medal

Ulysses Medal

Professor Shuh Narumiya

One of the world's leading experts in cell biology, Professor Shuh Narumiya, was awarded the UCD Ulysses Medal at the UCD Conway Institute on 23 May 2008. Professor Narumiya received the award in recognition of his scientific research and discoveries in the area of cell biology. Professor Narumiya's scientific work focuses on two main questions: how cells make their shape, move and form tissues; and how derangement of these mechanisms can lead to disease.

Thomas Kinsella

Irish poet Thomas Kinsella was awarded the UCD Ulysses Medal in recognition of his works, which reverberate with what the poet calls 'established personal places', the city of Dublin being at the heart of his work. Speaking at the award ceremony in UCD on 16 June (Bloomsday) 2008, Professor Maurice Harmon noted how the city of Dublin possessed Kinsella like no other writer since James Joyce.



(Pictured left): Eddie O'Connor was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science by UCD in July 2008

(Pictured right): Nobel Prize-winning scientist Professor Ferid Murad was awarded the UCD Ulysses Medal

UCD alumnus Mícheál
Ó Muircheartaigh was
awarded the UCD
Foundation Day Medal

Professor Ferid Murad

In recognition of his discovery of the use of nitric oxide in drug development and disease therapy, Nobel Prize-winning scientist Professor Ferid Murad has been awarded the UCD Ulysses Medal. His pioneering scientific work paved the way for biological research to venture into new areas that provide drug targets for many diseases, including pulmonary hypertension, cancer and cardiac disease. After the formal award ceremony, Professor Murad presented his Ulysses lecture entitled *The Discovery of Nitric Oxide and its Application in Drug Development* in the UCD Conway Institute on 17 September 2007.



Foundation Day Medal

Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to Irish sport and the Irish language, UCD alumnus Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh was awarded the UCD Foundation Day Medal on 9 November 2007. One of Ireland's best-known sports commentators, Ó Muircheartaigh worked as a teacher in Dublin before becoming a full-time broadcaster for RTÉ. In the mid-1980s, he took over from Mícheál O'Hehir as RTÉ's premier radio sports commentator.

7

Staff Developments

An essential factor in UCD's drive to provide students with a world-class learning establishment is its lecturers and academic staff members, who are recognised leaders in their respective fields of expertise. The depth of their knowledge and their professional calibre plays a fundamental role in the fulfilment of the UCD Strategic Plan.

Through the continuous development of staff members' skills, alongside the strategic recruitment of new staff, UCD offers its entire community an exceptional environment for teaching, learning, research and personal development.

UCD is committed to listening to the management and staff and responding to their needs. The recent revision of the structure of the university's HR function aims to enhance role clarity and manage organisation climate assessment.



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Professor](#)

[Appointments to Senior Lecturer](#)

[Senior Management Appointments](#)

Staff Developments

A comprehensive review of the HR function was completed in 2007 and a revised structure and service has been implemented. This review involved widespread consultation with all the key academic, administrative, technical and management users of HR services across the university. The aim of the new structure and service is to:

- Have HR Partners working closely with Colleges, Schools and Units;
- Ensure the overall service that HR provides is coherent, responsive and meets the needs of management and all staff.

Progress to date

HR Partners are in place, working closely with College/School/Unit management and staff. This allows UCD HR understand and respond to the key HR challenges at College, School and Unit level, and enables the more effective delivery of central HR services.

UCD HR is fully engaged in a number of the Senior Management Team projects such as Academic Governance and Management, Careers for Researchers, Academic Recruitment Protocols and Developing Key Performance Indicators.

Many key HR processes are actively under review. Equality and Diversity policies and practices have been reviewed, the Employee Assistance Programme has been relaunched and a root-and-branch review of recruitment processes has begun. Moreover, UCD HR has introduced Organisation Development capability and this role is working across the university to enhance role clarity and organisation structures and to manage the Organisation Climate assessment project. A review of how HR policies and procedures are presented on the HR website is also under way to make them more accessible to staff across the university.

In the area of recruitment, UCD HR played an important role in the successful SFI Stokes Chair and Lectureship Programme, where 16 strategically important roles were awarded to UCD. Involvement in other strategic recruitment initiatives is ongoing.

UCD HR commissioned a leadership development programme, partnering with Cranfield University on its design and delivery. The UCD Leadership Programme (funded by the HEA's Strategic

Innovation Fund) has been successfully delivered to over 140 senior staff across the university.

UCD Performance Management and Development System (UCD PMDS), which is a framework that supports staff development in a structured and informed way, is being rolled out to over 3,000 university staff. It fosters clear, two-way communication between colleagues that will identify and address development needs within the context of the university's goals.

Future objectives

Ensuring that the university gets value for money for HR services is essential. To achieve this, efficiency and enhancing the experience of staff in the use of HR services is paramount. All HR initiatives are underpinned by these key principles.

A quality review of recruitment processes and the recruitment experience for candidates through the introduction of e-recruitment is currently being piloted in a number of Schools and Units.

An evaluation of the UCD HR website has just been initiated, with the aim of making it more user focused.

A comprehensive review of the Staff Induction Programme is under way, along with the development of a tailored Head of School Induction Programme.

Further development of the Organisation Development service is envisaged and the rollout of the Organisation Climate survey is anticipated for late 2009.

Appointments and Promotions

The appointments listed in the following tables are those made in the period from 1 September 2007 to 31 August 2008.

Appointments to Professor

The table below sets out the 21 academic appointments made in the period of the report to positions of Professor and includes both new recruits to UCD and UCD staff promoted.

Name	Unit
Professor Angela Bourke	UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics
Professor Anthony Brabazon	UCD School of Business
Professor John Coakley	UCD School of Politics and International Relations
Professor Terence Dolan	UCD School of English, Drama and Film
Professor Finbarr McAuley	UCD School of Law
Professor Deirdre O'Grady	UCD School of Languages and Literatures
Professor James Phelan	UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science
Professor Howard Sidebottom	UCD School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology
Professor Shane Ward	UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine
Professor Damian McLoughlin	UCD School of Business
Professor Gabriel Cooney	UCD School of Archaeology
Professor Robert Johnston	UCD School of Business
Professor Ronan O'Connell	UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science
Professor Michael Keane	UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science
Professor Ciarán O Hogartaigh	UCD School of Business
Professor Matthias Wilm	UCD Conway Institute
Professor Gil Lee	UCD School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology
Professor Jeremy Simpson	UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science
Professor Ronald Davies	UCD School of Economics
Professor Chen-Ching Liu	UCD School of Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical Engineering
Professor Richard Tremblay	UCD School of Public Health and Population Science

Appointments to Associate Professor

The table below sets out the 26 academic appointments made in the period of the report to positions of Associate Professor and includes both new recruits to UCD and UCD staff promoted.

Name	Unit
Professor Richard Aldous	UCD School of History and Archives
Professor Hans-Benjamin Braun	UCD School of Physics
Professor Michael Bruen	UCD School of Architecture, Landscape and Civil Engineering
Professor Francis Butler	UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine
Professor Pádraig Dunne	UCD School of Physics
Professor Brian Glennon	UCD School of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering
Professor Lorraine Hanlon	UCD School of Physics
Professor Michael Lloyd	UCD School of Classics
Professor Liam Murphy	UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics
Professor Philip Newsholme	UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science
Professor Donal O'Shea	UCD School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology
Professor Muiris O'Sullivan	UCD School of Archaeology
Professor Andrea Prothero	UCD School of Business
Professor Bairbre Redmond	UCD School of Applied Social Science
Professor Aisling Reynolds-Feighan	UCD School of Economics
Professor John Sheridan	UCD School of Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical Engineering
Professor Ian Sommerville	UCD School of Geological Sciences
Professor Torres Sweeney	UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine
Professor Ben Tonra	UCD School of Politics and International Relations
Professor William Watson	UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science
Professor Barbara Kirby	UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine
Professor Helen Roche	UCD School of Public Health and Population Science
Professor Brendan Murphy	UCD School of Mathematical Sciences
Professor Nial Friel	UCD School of Mathematical Sciences
Professor Stephen Gordon	UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine
Professor Gareth Redmond	UCD School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology

Appointments to Senior Lecturer

The table below sets out the 27 academic appointments in the period of the report to positions of Senior Lecturer and includes both new recruits to UCD and UCD staff promoted.

Name	School
Dr Berna Grist	UCD School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy
Dr Jason Last	UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science
Dr Ríonach Uí Ógáin	National Folklore Collection
Dr Barbara Dooley	UCD School of Psychology
Dr Ann Bourke	UCD School of Business
Dr Alison Hanlon	UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine
Dr Emer O'Beirne	UCD School of Languages and Literatures
Dr Deirdre Hurley-Osing	UCD School of Physiotherapy and Performance Science
Dr Damian Mooney	UCD School of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering
Dr Carmel Hensey	UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science
Dr James Sullivan	UCD School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology
Dr Susi Geiger	UCD School of Business
Dr Michelle Butler	UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems
Dr Donal Bredin	UCD School of Business
Dr Eleni Mangina	UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics
Dr Gareth Dyke	UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science
Dr Jacob Eisenberg	UCD School of Business
Dr Bettina Migge	UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics
Dr Dominic Zerulla	UCD School of Physics
Dr Cosima Stubenrauch	UCD School of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering
Dr Michael O'Neill	UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics
Dr Suzanne Donnelly	UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science
Dr Jennifer Thompson	UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science
Dr Mary Codd	UCD School of Public Health and Population Science
Dr Neil Ferguson	UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science
Dr Aisling Mulligan	UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science
Dr Frances Hayes	UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science

Senior Management Appointments

The table below sets out the senior management appointments made in the period of the report which include both new recruits to UCD and UCD staff promoted.

Name	Title
Professor Maurice Boland	College Principal
Professor Mark Keane	Vice-President for Innovation and Corporate Partnership
Mr Gerard O'Brien	Vice-President for Finance/Bursar
Dr Ríonach Uí Ógáin	Director of National Folklore Collection