

83 sports scholarships awarded



Former UCD Sports scholar Brian O'Driscoll

At a reception in December, UCD President, Dr Hugh Brady announced the names of the 83 UCD Sports Scholarship recipients for the 2007/2008 academic year.

Irish 400m national champion and multiple record holder, Joanne Cuddihy joined students from twelve sports who received scholarships that will guarantee them access to top coaches, extensive training facilities and the support and services of the UCD High Performance Centre.

Since the scheme was initiated in 1979 by Dr Tony O'Neill to help talented soccer players who wished to stay in education, the UCD sports scholarship programme has expanded

and to date has supported over 650 students across athletics, basketball, camogie, cycling, ladies Gaelic football, men's Gaelic football, golf, handball, ladies hockey, men's hockey, hurling, rugby and ladies soccer.

Sports scholarships provide opportunities for the very best young sporting talent to advance their careers in an ideal environment and with suitable competitive opportunities. There are several important criteria which must be met – an academic qualification for a course must be achieved and the recipient of a scholarship must be prepared to commit him/herself to involvement in the respective UCD sports club. A satisfactory level of academic and sporting progress is essential, if the scholarship is to be renewed on an annual basis.

Some of Ireland's best known sporting figures are former UCD sports scholars including the current international rugby players Brian O'Driscoll and Paddy Wallace, captain of the Dublin county Gaelic football team.

Access to the High Performance Centre is a great boost to athletes preparing for both Beijing 2008 and London 2012. The centre provides a supportive framework of biomechanical, biochemical and nutritional information, facilitating the use of techniques found in the best universities in the world. To develop their performance, a tailored Strength and Conditioning Programme is devised for sports scholars and supervised by Lisa Regan UCD's Director of High Performance.

Team sport is specifically encouraged through the scholarship programme and the university fields teams at the highest competitive level in many sports. The rugby team competes in Division 1 of the AIB All-Ireland League, the ladies and men's hockey teams compete in the top flight of their respective Leinster leagues, the soccer team are the only university side to play in the Eircom League premier division, while both the senior hurling and Gaelic football sides have a strong tradition in both the university and Dublin championship competitions.

This year's UCD sports scholars include:

- Mary Leacy who captained Wexford to their Senior All-Ireland Camogie title in 2007.
- Cyclist Louise Moriarty who is the Irish 3k track individual pursuit record holder.
- Dual player Barry O'Rorke who captained the Dublin minor hurlers to their Leinster Championship title in 2007.
- Hockey players, Roisin Flinn and Lisa Jacob, who are both members of the Irish Senior team.
- Robert Kearney, captain of the Irish under-19 World Cup rugby squad in 2004 and current member of Leinster and Irish A squads.
- Paul Ormond, Tipperary senior hurler and member of the victorious Loughmore-Castleiney Munster Club Championship side.

Pictured (l-r): Noel Delaney (Grant Thornton), camogie player Mary Leacy (Wexford), and gaelic footballer Shane Lennon (Louth) at the announcement of the UCD Sports Scholarship recipients for the 2007/2008 academic year



UCD Sports Scholars: 2007 - 2008

Athletics: Joanne Cuddihy (Kilkenny), Stephen Darcy (Carlow), Jamie Davis (Dublin), Katie Lyndon (Galway), Mairead Murphy (Waterford) and Padraig White (Meath).

Basketball: Barry Drumm (Dublin), Peter Finn (Galway), Kevin Foley (Dublin), Matthew Kelly (Dublin) and Conor Meany (Dublin).

Camogie: Mary Leacy (Wexford), Mairead Luttrell (Kilkenny), Allison Maguire (Dublin), Susan O'Carroll (Kildare) and Julianne Woodcock (Kilkenny).

Camogie and Ladies Gaelic Football: Cathriona Buckley (Cork).

Cycling: Louise Moriarty (Dublin).

Ladies Gaelic Football: Lisa Cafferkey (Mayo), Ailish Coryn (Cavan), Karen Kennedy (Dublin) and Cliona O'Connor (Dublin).

Men's Gaelic Football: Cormac Brady (Monaghan), Pat Brady (Cavan), John Fitzpatrick (Down), Stephen Gallagher (Westmeath), Peter Kelly (Kildare), Shane Lennon (Louth), Mark McGowan (Donegal), Cathal O'Dwyer (Meath) and John O'Loughlin (Laois).

Men's Gaelic Football & Hurling: Ciaran Lyng (Wexford) and Barry O'Rorke (Dublin).

Men's Golf: Garreth Dillon (Laois), John Greene (Carlow) and Gerard Kelly (Louth).

Handball: Eimear Ni Fhalluin (Kildare)

Ladies Hockey: Rosie Corrigan (Galway), Roisin Flinn (Dublin), Lisa Jacob (Wexford) and Christine Quinlan (Dublin).

Men's Hockey: John Brennan (Kilkenny), Ben Grogan (Dublin) and Michael O'Connor (Dublin).

Hurling: Aaron Cox (Carlow), Diarmuid Fitzgerald (Tipperary), Tommy Fitzgerald (Tipperary), Colm Gleeson (Tipperary), David Langton (Kilkenny), Brendan Murphy (Offaly), Maurice Nolan (Kilkenny), Patrick Nolan (Wexford), Paul Ormond (Tipperary) and Liam Ryan (Kilkenny).

Rugby: Cian Aherne (Limerick), Vasily Artemiev (Russia), Ben Barclay (Dublin), Wesley Carter (Tipperary), Brian Cawley (Wicklow), Eoghan Conran (Kildare), Andrew Cummiskey (Dublin), Cailbhe Doherty (Wicklow), Cathal Doyle (Kildare), Mark Flanagan (Westmeath), David Gilchrist (Dublin), Robert Kearney (Louth), Killian Lett (Wexford), Fergus McFadden (Kildare), Gerard Moran (Dublin), David Nyhan (Dublin), Conor Quinn (Kildare), Robert Shanley (Dublin), Jonathan Slattery (Dublin) and Gavin Telford (Laois).

Men's Soccer: Billy Brennan (Kilkenny), Ronan Finn (Dublin), Michael Kelly (Dublin), Evan McMillan (Dublin), Francis Moran (Dublin), Patrick Mullins (Limerick), Gerard O'Callaghan (Monaghan), Declan O'Donnell (Donegal) and James O'Sullivan (Tipperary).