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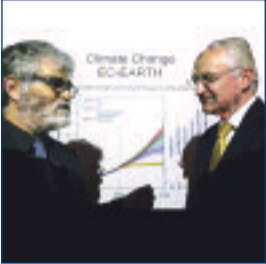


Climate Change Planning for our future

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Revealing the Writer

Siún Ní Dhuinn speaks to Evelyn Conlon, a multi-dimensional writer, who looks back on her time as writer-in-residence at the UCD School of English, Drama and Film from September to December 2007. A member of Aosdána, awarded Arts Council of Ireland bursaries in literature 1988 and 1995, shortlisted for Irish Novel of the Year for 'Skin of Dreams' in 2004 and founding member of the Rape Crisis Centre, Evelyn speaks about her time in residency at UCD, about her writing, the vocation of the writer and the difficulties a writer can face.



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Eating Disorders

Adolescent attitudes towards food, diet and body image were recently examined by Professor Fiona McNicholas, professor of child psychiatry at UCD and her colleagues at the Lucena Clinic and Our Lady's Children's Hospital, these attitudes had not been looked at in Ireland before now, with no previous studies examining the rates of dieting or eating pathology in an Irish adolescent population. Professor McNicholas talks to Danielle Barron.

Contributors:

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This publication is also available online at www.ucd.ie/ucdtoday



Please Recycle

Perceptions: abroad and at home... reality hits

Now that the flurry of the CAO deadline is complete and sixth year students get down to the business of their mock Leaving Certificate exams, we have some space and time to review our own communications with prospective students.

Three years ago we launched UCD Horizons in order to let prospective students - and their families - know that UCD had reformed our undergraduate curriculum and would be introducing a modular teaching and learning structure in the coming year. We believed that students had to be given as much information as possible about the changes before they filled out their CAO forms, even though the full structure was not completed. The thrust of the message was about change and explained that the new system would offer more choice and flexibility.

The following year, the communications focused on explaining how modularisation, and in particular the elective element, works as prospective students and their advisors needed to understand the 10 + 2 model. The message - 'how deep' 'how far' 'how high' expressed the choices available to students.

This year, the message evolved to reflect the interests and experiences of our students. It was quite a natural process to invite students to become directly involved in the CAO communications process. We started with seven students, drawn from the large degree programmes: BA, BSc, BComm, BEng, BSocSc, BCL and MB, BCh, BAO (Medicine). We built a special microsite for visitors to 'meet the students' and as they told their stories in their own words the microsite popped up lots of facts about UCD spanning many aspects of academic and social life on campus.

The microsite is integrally linked with the new student admissions web area. This area focuses on providing prospective students with relevant information and presents summary course details in a concise and easy to follow manner.

Readers can access the microsite via www.myucd.ie. I would invite you to take a look and as you do, remember this is targeted at 17 year olds!

Eilis O'Brien

Director of Communications

Climate Change

Professor Peter Lynch talks to Sean Duke (BSc 1987) about the unpredictability of Climate Change and future measures for predicting Climate Change both in Ireland and globally.

Professor Peter Lynch, the first Chair of Meteorology at UCD took up his post in September 2004 from Met Éireann, where he was Deputy Director. The position at UCD presented an opportunity to combine education and research. Professor Lynch had previously taught third-level courses in Meteorology and Atmospheric Physics at TCD. He also has a passion for mathematics and its application in particular, the Mathematics of Atmosphere Dynamics. Since 2004, he has been steadily working to build up the various teaching and research programmes at UCD.

Professor Lynch's primary research interest area is that of abrupt climate change. For example, the idea that something could happen that would trigger very rapid climate change. Or, more interestingly, but more dangerously, something could happen that could trigger a new climate phenomenon, one that is totally unexpected, and has never been seen before. "The possibility of sudden climate changes is not just speculation" says Professor Lynch, "the historical climate record has shown that the temperature has changed dramatically, by five degrees Celsius or more, over a period as short as a decade. This has been revealed in ice cores, which contain pockets of trapped gases from ancient periods in the Earth's history. The mixture of the gases can indicate what temperatures were like."

Unanticipated climate events, which Professor Lynch refers to as 'unanticipated emergent phenomena', are scary, as they don't exist now, but if the right climate conditions arise, they could exist and prove devastating. An example he gives is that of the Ozone Hole appearing in the Ozone Layer. The Ozone Layer is the protective layer around the Earth that protects us from damaging solar radiation. The Ozone Hole, which appeared in the Antarctic stratosphere, was totally unforeseen, and the reaction of scientists was to believe their measuring instruments must be wrong.

"It was only afterwards that chemists and atmospheric scientists managed to determine what was going on - complicated chemical interactions involving Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)," explains Professor Lynch.

Professor Lynch also uses hurricanes as another example of Climate Change. Hurricanes would not happen if the ocean temperature did not reach 260 Celsius. If we lived on a planet where the temperature of our oceans never reached this level, then we would be unaware of the existence of hurricanes. "The point is," says Professor Lynch, "as our climate changes, there may be other phenomena that could appear. They might be triggered into life - perhaps devastatingly - given changes in certain parameters."

Serious flooding has become a regular feature of Ireland's climate in the past decade. This has become a major issue for government, Professor Lynch and his colleagues are looking at developing ways of predicting floods in advance.

A computer model was developed of the River Suir Basin, it was found that the system was quite sensitive to even small changes in rainfall. If an effective model could be developed for the River Suir, then one could be developed for other areas.

He says that the indications are that in future, flooding events in Ireland will be more severe and more frequent. Wind is also likely to increase by about 15 per cent in winter and decrease in summer. At the moment, however, these are just 'indications', and Peter would like to see an expansion of this work so that 'probabilities' can be developed for certain scenarios occurring in the future.

One way to try and turn indications into more reliable probabilities is to use the method of 'Ensemble Prediction'. This is where a large number of computer simulations of possible climate scenarios are developed into a collection known as an ensemble. The next step is to look at the statistical behaviour of the ensemble, as everything that is measurable in science has some 'error' component built in - for example, even the speed of light is not known exactly! This approach means that when

you give a prediction of future climate, there is a measure of confidence. The prediction may be drawn up from, an ensemble of 100 simulations. The more scenarios that are looked at and analysed in terms of computer simulations, the better the chances are of accurate predictions.

"We want to know what is the probability, or likelihood of different things happening?" explains Professor Lynch. "In that context we might find that in our ensemble, most of the predictions cluster in a certain region, with maybe one or two wildcats. These could give an indication of extreme unanticipated events. For example the possibility of abrupt climate change and this is an area where we don't know enough, so far. Ireland and the rest of the world could benefit from this approach, as unexpected events may become more predictable."

At a national level, there is a collaborative project between UCD and Met Éireann are working on a collaborative project, the Community Climate Change Consortium for Ireland (the C4I Project), the aim of which is to model and predict climate change in Ireland. This involves running regional climate models, through a computational method called nesting. The idea is to 'nest' a regional model for Ireland and the North Atlantic inside the massive global models that are available.

"The regional model gives a much higher resolution and a more precise description of the climate in the region that we are interested in," says Professor Lynch. "We are concerned specifically with how climate change will impact on Ireland. Almost anything that you think of is going to be affected by climate change; agriculture transport, tourism, health, recreation, industry, construction, and energy."

Professor Lynch feels that information about the likely impact of climate change in all these areas will provide decision makers in government and the private sector with the solid data they require to make plans for the future. The C4I Project aims to fill gaps in the knowledge that exists today. For example, if the temperature rises significantly, then the east of Ireland might experience pressure for water supplies in future years. It is important that planners know what is likely to happen here, so that they can put appropriate strategies in place.

The national climate research efforts were assisted greatly by the establishment of the Irish Centre for High-End Computing (ICHEC). This centre recently acquired a powerful computing platform, called an IBM Blue Gene/P.

This will help to improve the precision of regional weather forecasting. Making improvements in forecasting is difficult because, for many technical reasons, the computational requirements climb very quickly in order to make better predictions.

European climate-prediction experts met recently at UCD, to discuss the development of a computer system to examine future weather patterns. The Minister for the Environment, John Gormley, TD opened the meeting which was part of the

EC-Earth Programme, an international collaborative project aiming to simulate and predict the entire global climate system. UCD is a partner in EC-Earth. The group plans to develop a computer model that will improve predictions of global climate for the rest of this century.

Speaking at the opening, Minister Gormley said that projects such as EC-Earth are "absolutely essential if we are to predict the global climate conditions with accuracy. Climate change threatens our very existence and we must tackle it now. We also want to expand the links to international research to ensure that Ireland has an advanced capability for predicting future climate conditions".

Sean Duke is a UCD graduate and joint editor of Science Spin

For some time, many had felt that the training in meteorology in Ireland was not at the level it should be nor was there enough research happening in the field here. Irish students had to go to universities abroad for training. Met Éireann approached a number of universities about setting up a training and research programme, and reached an agreement with UCD. Following on from this, a Chair of Meteorology post was established in UCD, and Professor Lynch was appointed to the role, in September 2004.

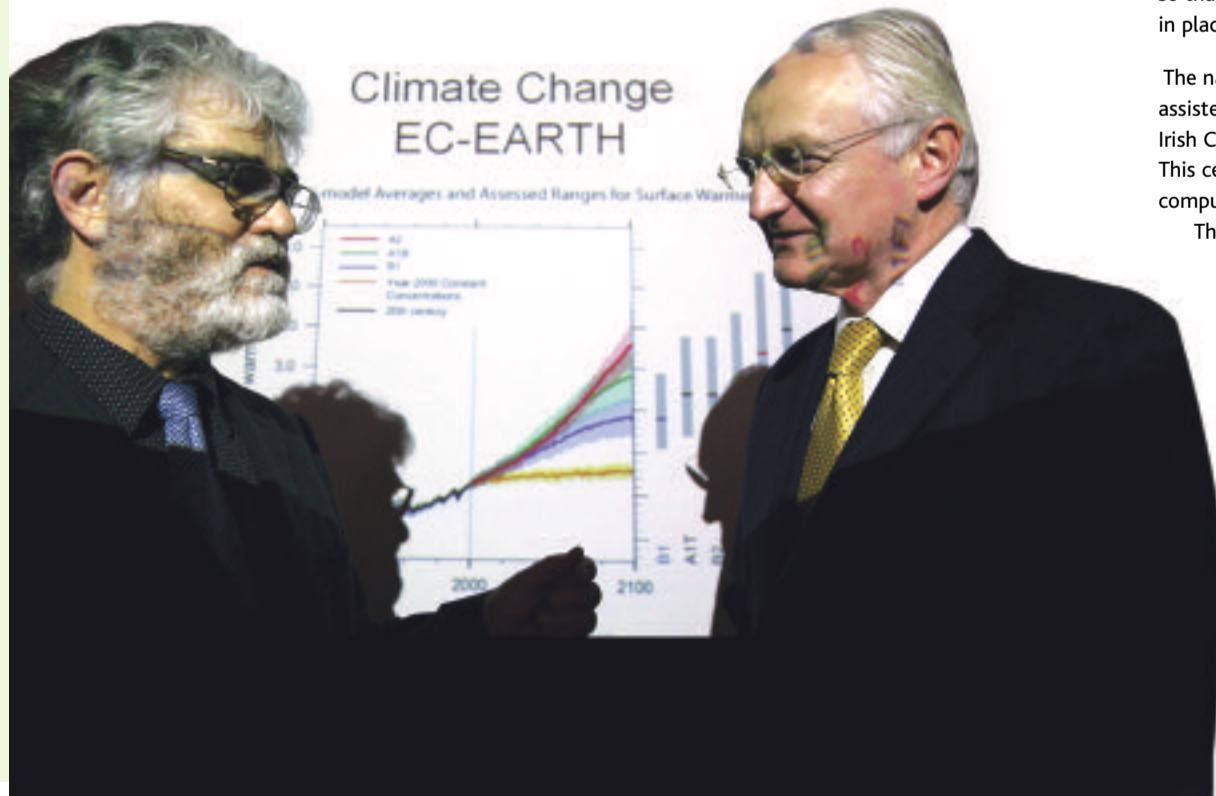
Professor Lynch recognised the importance of establishing a teaching programme as soon as possible. The first course was the MSc in Meteorology, covering all the main areas of the field. The MSc has been operating successfully and is now in its fourth year.

A new undergraduate programme Climate and Earth System Science was set up in collaboration with the School of Geological Sciences. "Because climate change issues are in the news almost every day, there is always a high level of interest from undergraduates," explained Professor Lynch, "but it is vitally important that students are well grounded in mathematics. This is a basic requirement for climate modelling and means that undergraduates are typically coming from engineering or physics."

This year there are in the region of 20 undergraduate students taking meteorology modules, as part of their engineering, physics, or other degrees. A further seven undergraduate students are registered in the full Climate and Earth System Science degree, which Professor Lynch hopes to develop further.

Professor Lynch would like to continue to build on the undergraduate degree, and to link it in a stronger way with the MSc. He regards the study of climate change as interesting academically, but also as a field with good career prospects.

In terms of where his students might end up working he cites the Marine Institute, the Office of Public Works, the Environmental Protection Agency, and Sustainable Energy Ireland as some examples. But, he also notes that in future major companies may have "a climate change guy" as it will become economically worth their while to do so.



Frank O'Kane - An Appreciation

It was with a combination of shock and sadness that those of us who had come to know Frank O'Kane received the news of his sudden death in December. Frank had been among the most generous, loyal and committed supporters of UCD for many years. Apart from his standing as the single largest benefactor of the Arts in the history of the university, he was a tireless advocate for UCD, never missing an opportunity to let friends *extra muros* know of his many connections to the university nor indeed ever failing to offer an encouraging word to those of us within who sought his counsel.

A native of Strabane, Frank will always be associated with Mercury Engineering, the company that he and his close friend and colleague, Joe Morgan founded in 1972.

As captured so well by Fergus D'Arcy in his citation on the occasion of Frank's conferring with an Honorary Doctorate of Laws in June 2003, Mercury Engineering was associated with UCD from its very beginnings and the story of UCD's growth and development on the Belfield campus was mirrored by Mercury's growth as a major Irish and international engineering company.

Frank's first contract at Belfield was in the provision of services for the construction of the Michael Tierney Building in 1972. Since then, Frank and Mercury were involved in almost every major infrastructural project on campus and to list the elements of that involvement is, literally, to chronicle the development of the university: Phase 1 and 2 of the Library; Agriculture; Engineering; O'Reilly Hall;

Veterinary Medicine; Conway Institute; Newman upgrade; Science Education Centre West; Merville and Belgrove residences upgrade; Daedalus data centre.

Frank's contributions to UCD's growth were philanthropic as well as commercial. His major gift enabled the restoration of the observatory as a screening facility for Film Studies. He was also a major supporter of the Centre for Research in Infectious Diseases.

Frank in his person represented the transformation of independent Ireland, as the country became a successful modern economy. His boundless energy made all of us feel, when in his company, suffused with the radiance of friendship. We are the poorer for his passing.

PC, January 2008



Research breakthroughs in breast cancer and inflammatory bowel disease

Exciting developments in two significant areas of medical treatment have recently been announced by scientists working at the UCD Conway Institute.

Professor Joe Duffy and his colleagues at the Conway Institute and St Vincent's University Hospital have developed a test that will allow doctors to better design treatment programmes for newly diagnosed breast cancer patients. This test involves measuring the levels of a biomarker, known as urokinase plasminogen activator (uPA), in the tissue, and the results will indicate how likely it is that a patient's cancer will spread beyond the breast site. This in turn will allow doctors to refine the treatment solutions for individual patients.

If the levels of the uPA enzyme are high, it is a signal that the cancer is more likely to metastasise or spread. This would be a situation

in which chemotherapy after surgery would be a good treatment option for the patient. If the uPA levels in a patient are low, however, radiotherapy is more likely to be sufficient to treat the cancerous tissue after surgery. "This test can help to offer a more tailored solution for patients", says Professor Duffy, "rather than simply using the chemotherapy blunderbuss on everyone, regardless of whether it is suitable or not. If it's not necessary, then the patient's comfort and quality of life during treatment is improved."

Following validation of the test with over 8,000 patients, the American Society of Clinical Oncology has recently decided to make this one of the standard tests for all new breast cancer patients. While the test is not yet available in Ireland, it is hoped that funding will become available to roll it out in the near future. The research to date has been funded by

the Irish Cancer Society and the Health Research Board of Ireland.

Meanwhile Professor Cormac Taylor, together with his Conway Institute colleagues and Professor Pdraic Fallon of Trinity College Dublin, has identified a potential new treatment for sufferers of Inflammatory Bowel Disease. This condition affects over 15,000 people in Ireland and surgery to remove parts of the intestine has often been the only therapeutic option available.

Professor Taylor and his colleagues have discovered that a new class of drugs known as hydroxylase inhibitors can almost completely reverse the symptoms of IBD in a disease model. He explains; "Under normal conditions our gastro-intestinal tract is lined with cells that block the contents of the gut from leaking into the intestine. However, when a person is

suffering from IBD this barrier is broken and the contents of the gut leak out into surrounding areas. When we applied the new drugs the gut was tricked into thinking that it was being deprived of oxygen and this activated protective pathways which in turn prevented the death of the cells that line the gastrointestinal tract."

The research findings were published in the January 2008 issue of the journal *Gastroenterology*. Next, the Irish scientists will be teaming up with colleagues working in the same area in the University of Colorado, Denver, to further develop the new therapeutic so that it can be safely delivered to humans. Science Foundation Ireland has recently granted significant independent investigator awards to the Irish research groups working on this.

Science Foundation Ireland Stokes Programme Awards

UCD was the most successful institution in the SFI Stokes Programme awards with nine professorships and seven lectureships, announced by the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Micheál Martin TD. The programme is aimed at recruiting senior, world-class research academics as well as entry-level academics and senior post-doctoral researchers.

Among the Stokes Professors who will be taking up posts at UCD are Professor Gil Lee and Professor Matthias Wilm. Currently an associate professor in the Schools of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering at Purdue University, Indiana, Professor Lee works in the emerging field of BioNanoTechnology and his work will further develop the nanobiology programme at UCD, which was recently awarded a Strategic Research Cluster Award from SFI and a PRTL

award to establish new laboratories in the UCD Science Centre. Professor Wilm, from the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) in Heidelberg, will join the UCD Conway Institute and establish a laboratory that can describe and quantify large numbers of proteins in a system.

The SFI Stokes Professorship and Lectureship Programme is designed to support the strategic recruitment of research-active faculty members. Established in 2007, it provides Higher Education Institutes with greater flexibility in the strategic recruitment of key research personnel at multiple levels, thereby enabling schools or institutes to integrate quality research staff to the existing pool of expertise.

Pictured at the announcement were, from (l-r): Dr Joachim Radler (Stokes Nominee for UCD); Prof. Gerry O'Sullivan (UCD School of Physics); Dr Gil Lee; Prof Frank Gannon (Director General SFI); Andrew Phillips (UCD); Dr Brian Vohnsen and Prof. Earle Waghorne (Head of School, UCD School of Chemistry).



Innovation Strategy

Professor Mark Keane, the recently appointed Vice-President for Innovation, is currently drafting UCD's Innovation Strategy: Foundation Building (2008-2012). He has already met with all college executives, principals and vice-principals to discuss ideas for this strategy and is now seeking input from the wider UCD community.

Guiding goals for this strategy include growing UCD's innovation culture; meeting the 'real' expectations of the Government's Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation; securing future research funding; supporting the varied career paths for post-graduate students and post-docs and positioning UCD for future external income.

Over the coming years, the actions defined will be designed to build an innovation foundation

which will be reviewed in 2012. The strategy must be read in conjunction with UCD's Strategic Plan for Research as innovation will move in lock-step with UCD's research priorities.

Any school or individual who wishes to discuss the strategy face-to-face should contact caroline.murphy@ucd.ie to arrange a convenient date. The plan is to collate all feedback received by April 2008 and to complete the document in Q2, 2008.

Some initial ideas of what this Innovation Strategy might contain along with a set of Powerpoint slides can be downloaded from the UCD intranet, <http://intranet.ucd.ie/vpinnovation/staff/> using your UCD Connect username and password.



The project team, front row (l-r): Liam Cleere, Gary Mahon, Carmel Norris and Jennifer Colliery. Back Row (l-r): Gavin Henrick, Ros Pan, Lisa Ryan and David Gallagher.

Institutional Research Repository for UCD Library

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

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

Leveraging their experience in the education sector, Enovation's development work included considerable changes to the main DSpace data fields and some specific enhancements to the DSpace website.

The Library is currently piloting the repository with the Schools of Economics, Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy and the Geary Institute. They plan to officially launch it as a university-wide service later in 2008. Further application developments will involve integrating the repository with the existing research management system at the library to allow for full data flow between the two.

This 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. The project will establish open access institutional repositories in all Irish universities, augmented by an Irish portal to discover and access Irish research outputs.

Rosalind Pan (UCD Library) explains:

"The main advantage of engaging with Enovation Solutions was that we were able to get up and running quickly without putting extra pressure on the Library systems team. We concentrated on administering the site and collecting the data while they focused on the development side of things."

Gary Mahon (Enovation Solutions) commented: "There is considerable evidence to suggest that making an institution's research output easily accessible via a research repository leads to higher levels of citation, thereby enhancing the reputation and visibility of the institution. DSpace facilitates this in an easy-to-use and cost-effective way."

NovaUCD

Innovation and Technology Transfer



Honorary Conferring - Stephen Rea

BA students were joined by actor Stephen Rea as they received their degrees in December. He was conferred with an honorary Doctor of Literature for 'contributions to the performing arts'.

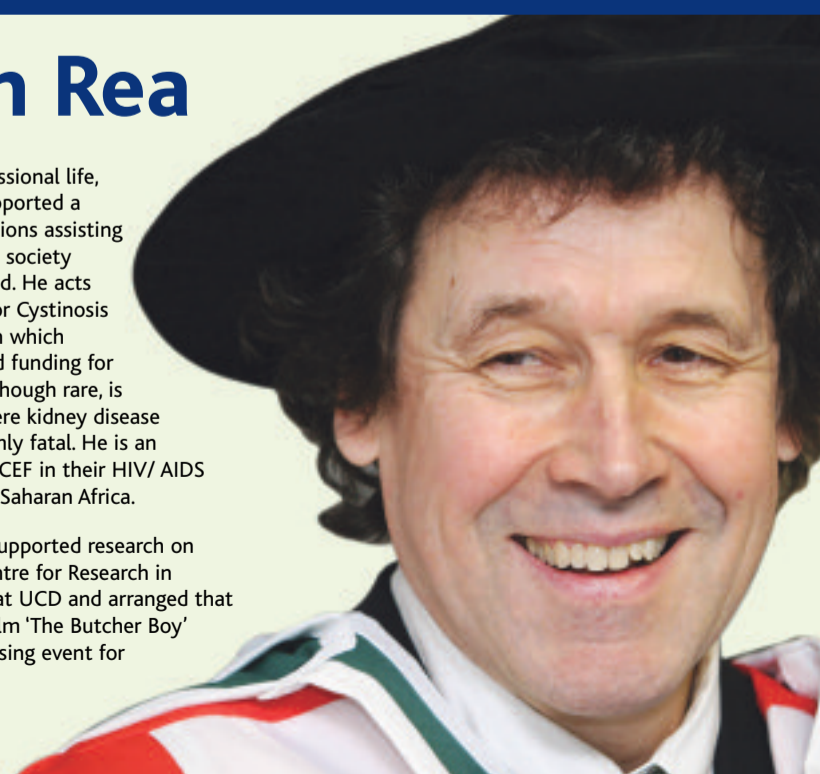
Delivering the citation, Professor William Hall spoke of Rea's remarkable achievement in bringing modern Irish theatre to the world stage. "The creation of the Field Day Theatre Company by Stephen Rea and Brian Friel provided a platform for the development of a much larger cultural and political agenda. Field Day became a seminal force in Irish theatre since 1980 and its contribution to Irish culture is immeasurable." The production of Friel's 'Translations' was a watershed in the acceptance of Irish theatre in Britain. During its existence, the company produced ten new plays including world premieres of Tom Paulin, Thomas Kilroy, Stewart Parker, Terry Eagleton and Seamus Heaney.

Stephen Rea has continued his commitment to theatre with at least one production every year and with considerable critical success. Notably he received Theatre World and Outer Circle Critics Awards and a nomination for a Tony Award for his Broadway performance in the Frank McGuinness play 'Someone to Watch Over Me'.

While continuing his stage career he has also made remarkable contributions to film and cinema. His introduction to film began with small roles during his London theatre period in the 1970s but in the last two decades he has made more than 40 major films. The first in 1982 'Angel' was directed by Neil Jordan and this led to a long and productive working relationship with Jordan with whom he has now made a total of eight films. In 1992 he received an Oscar nomination for one of these, 'The Crying Game' for which he was also awarded Best Actor by the National Society of Film Critics.

Outside of his professional life, Stephen Rea has supported a number of organisations assisting the less fortunate in society both here and abroad. He acts as a spokesperson for Cystinosis Ireland, a foundation which raises awareness and funding for a disorder which, although rare, is associated with severe kidney disease and which is uniformly fatal. He is an ambassador for UNICEF in their HIV/AIDS programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa.

In addition, he has supported research on HIV/AIDS at the Centre for Research in Infectious Diseases at UCD and arranged that the premier of his film 'The Butcher Boy' was the first fundraising event for the Centre.



Rights of Passage at Tara

The Hill of Tara has a special resonance for Irish people, which is not surprising when we consider that it has been a ritual landscape for more than five thousand years. The earliest known monument on the hill is Duma na nGiall (The Mound of the Hostages), constructed around 3200 BC.

This monument, a megalithic tomb with an overlying cairn and mound, was excavated in the 1950s by Seán P Ó Riordain, then Professor of Celtic Archaeology in UCD. More recently, in 2005, it was the subject of a volume by Professor Muiris O'Sullivan (Head of the UCD School of Archaeology). The volume, entitled *Duma na nGiall*, was published in 2006 by Wordwell in association with the UCD School of Archaeology. The monument is now the focus of a special exhibition in the National Museum of Ireland.

This exhibition was mounted by the National Museum to mark the 50th anniversary of the death of Professor Ó Riordáin and is the first exhibition the museum has ever devoted to a specific archaeological excavation. Telling the story of the excavation as well as the archaeological findings, it is based mainly on artefacts from the site but also includes documents and photographs relating to the excavations, as well as a model of the hill itself. The exhibition relies heavily on Professor O'Sullivan's publication, and he also acted as advisor to the exhibition, providing additional images and documents relating to the excavations, and delivered associated lectures.

Research on the Hill of Tara is ongoing. The Rath of the Synods, another site excavation by Ó Riordáin at Tara, is being seen through the publication process by the UCD School of Archaeology and is expected to appear in the early months of 2009.

In December 2007, a fine example of megalithic art was encountered on the roofstone of a souterrain during archaeological investigations prior to the construction of the M3 motorway. The decorated stone, in the townland of Lismullin adjacent to Tara, is an interesting re-use of a Neolithic feature in an early medieval structure. Professor Muiris O'Sullivan and Dr Blaze O'Connor from UCD School of Archaeology are collaborating on the publication of the stone.



Early Bronze Age ceramic vessels from human burial deposits (c. 2,200-1,800 BC)



Objects from Neolithic cremation deposits (c. 3,000 BC)

New professor of surgery appointed

UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science has appointed Professor Ronan O'Connell Professor of Surgery and Consultant Surgeon at St Vincent's University Hospital in April 2007. He was previously a consultant surgeon at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital since 1990 and Newman Clinical Research Professor at UCD since 2002.

Professor O'Connell graduated in 1979 and trained in Dublin and Cork. He completed specialist training in Colon and Rectal Surgery at the Mayo Clinic, Minnesota, USA.

He has published widely in the areas of inflammatory bowel disease, pelvic floor physiology and continence. His research has been recognised by numerous awards including the Patey Prize of the Surgical Research Society (1985), the British Journal of Surgery Prize at the Association of Coloproctology GB and Ireland (1995, 1997, 1999, 2007) and the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons Research Prize (2007).

Professor O'Connell has been associate editor (1999-2002) and editor (2002-6) of the 'British Journal of Surgery', Associate Editor of 'Diseases

of the Colon and Rectum' (since 2001) and is on the editorial board of several journals. He has given numerous invited lectures including the Bacon Lecture to the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons (2003), the Sir Peter Freyer Lecture (2007), the Sir Alan Parks' Lecture at St Mark's Hospital, London (2007) and the Hughes Lecture to the Colorectal Surgical Society of Australia and New Zealand (2007).



Visit of Iraqi academics

In December, a group of eight Iraqi physics lecturers travelled to Ireland to participate in a UNESCO-funded project in UCD. The project 'Training of Trainers in Teacher Education for Sustained Quality Education in Iraq' was set up to create a critical mass of highly qualified teacher trainers. The aim of the visit was to train the visiting academics in university procedures and practices, so that they, in turn, could educate secondary teacher trainees in Iraq.

The project focuses upon new teaching methodologies, subject updating, curriculum review and training content review, and how the learning in these areas can be applied in universities in Iraq.

The academics visited the James Joyce Library, IT Services and the SySDem Unit in order to experience the internal processes of the university as well as specific training in the School of Physics. They were also introduced to some innovative teaching methodologies, such as problem-based learning in the Centre for Teaching and Learning.

Twelve universities internationally were selected as hosts on specific subject areas. UCD was chosen by UNESCO as host for both physics and geology. The results of the visits are expected to have far-reaching effects as the skills and experiences the academics have gained are passed on to secondary school teachers in training in Iraq. The academics also visited some local secondary schools in the area to observe the physics curriculum in use in school laboratories.

Professor of Biochemical Engineering at UCD, Mohamed Al-Rubeai acted as a consultant to the Iraqi education system after the downfall of Saddam Hussein's government. He recognises teacher training as one of the key areas to ensure progression in Iraq's education system.

Professor Mohamed Al-Rubeai, Professor Kahlil Hajim and Dr Tony Scott from UCD were involved in the management and co-ordination of the three-week visit, which encouraged the Iraqi academics to promote physics in their education system.



Pictured in the Physics Common Room are the Iraqi delegation with UCD staff (l-r) Prof Raad Abdul Kareem Radhi (University of Baghdad), Dr Edrees MT Nore (Salahaddin University), Dr Erik Lithander (Director of International Strategy and Operations, UCD), Dr Ali Hassan Ahmed (Salahaddin University), Prof Abdul Ridha H Subber (University of Basrah), Dr Hugh Brady (President, UCD), Prof Zeki Abdullah Ahmed (University of Basrah), Dr Sattar Othman Hasan (Salahaddin University), Prof Wathiq A Taha (University of Basrah) and Dr Ali Talib Mohammed (University of Baghdad)

1916 in 1966 - Commemorating the Easter Rising

The official 50th anniversary commemorations of the Easter Rising in the Republic are examined in a new book: **1916 in 1966 - Commemorating the Easter Rising**, edited by Professor Mary E Daly (Principal, UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies) and Dr Margaret O'Callaghan (Queen's University Belfast).

With contributions from Dr Roisin Higgins, Ms Carole Holohan, Professor Michael Laffan and Professor Tony Roche (UCD); Dr Diarmaid Ferriter (St Patrick's College, Drumcondra), Ms Rebecca Graff-McRae and Dr Catherine O'Donnell (Queen's University of Belfast),

the book considers how the Irish government reinvented the message of 1916 through the jubilee celebrations in 1966. It also explores the organisation of various unofficial commemorations of the Rising in Northern Ireland, and the significance of these for nationalist and unionist politics in the mid-1960s.

The book originated from a collaborative research project between UCD and Queen's University Belfast - the 50th anniversary commemorations of the Easter Rising in 1966. The research team analysed the events of 1966 to gauge the impact the commemoration had

on subsequent events in Northern Ireland. The researchers found a commemoration based more on community and sporting organisations rather than military ones. The findings of this research into the events of Easter 1916 are debated through a series of essays in the book. This project was funded by the Higher Education Authority under the Programme for North-South Research.

1916 in 1966 - Commemorating the Easter Rising was recently launched in the Royal Irish Academy by the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern TD. Speaking at the launch Mr Ahern said: "Edited by two of the country's most respected

academics, this book is both illuminating and timely. It shines a light into Irish society in the 1960s and also offers a valuable guiding perspective on the politics of commemoration."

Professor Daly explains: "Whether you are for or against the Rising, there is no denying that it was a major formative factor in the creation of an independent Irish state, as such I think it is appropriate to explore and debate the events of 1966 in that context."

1916 in 1966 - Commemorating the Easter Rising is published by the Royal Irish Academy and is available in bookshops.

(l-r) President of the Royal Irish Academy, James Slevin; Margaret O'Callaghan, QUB, co-editor; An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern TD; Prof. Mary E Daly, UCD, co-editor.



Ba mhór an Spraioi é!

A focus group held in December 2006 inspired Bord na Gaeilge to provide a special module for the students of their long established Irish Language Student Residence Scheme. With the help of UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore & Linguistics and the organisation Gaelchultúr, an innovative course was introduced to UCD's Horizons programme. By the end of this module, participating students had the linguistic/ leadership skills needed to promote and realise a professional, cultural event- and they did just that...

Thóg Bord na Gaeilge cinneadh ag ceardlann lae i mí na Nollag 2006 modúl Gaeilge a chur ar fáil do mhic léinn na Scéime Cónaithe a mbeadh sé mar aidhm aige braistint phobail a chothú ina measc. Thoiligh Scoil na Gaeilge, an Léinn Cheiltigh, Bhéaloideas Éireann agus na Teangeolaíochta creidiúintí a sholáthar do na rannpháirtithe mar chuid de chlár Horizons na hOllscoile agus thairg sí cúrsa teanga dóibh. D'oibrigh Bord na Gaeilge i gcomhar leis an Scoil agus leis an eagraíocht Gaelchultúr chun modúl a chur le chéile dar teideal 'Scileanna Cumarsáide trí Ghaeilge'.

Tháinig ann don chúrsa sin i mí an Mheán Fómhair 2007. An phríomhaidhm a bhí leis an modúl seo ná na scileanna a mhúineadh do na mic léinn a chuirfeadh ar a gcumas ócáid mhór cheoil agus rince, trí mheán na Gaeilge a reáchtáil san Ollscoil, roimh Nollaig. Bhí sé mar sprioc go bhfoghlaimeodh na rannpháirtithe conas ócáid a eagrú, a phoibliú agus a chur ar siúl go héifeachtach agus go mbeadh na scileanna a dhéanadh siad a shealbhú úsáideach dóibh i réimsí éagsúla den saol agus den obair ina dhiaidh sin. Díródh ar nithe go leor le linn an chúrsa féin: preaseisiúint ar chaighdeán ard a scríobh a bhí cruinn ó thaobh na Gaeilge de; margaiocht a dhéanamh sna meáin Ghaeilge agus sna meáin Bhéarla; úsáid éifeachtach a bhaint as na háiseanna Gaeilge ar líne agus as na bogearraí atá ar fáil chun Gaeilge níos cruinne a scríobh etc.

Sheas an cúrsa an triail. D'éirigh thar cinn le hoíche mhór na mac léinn, 20 Samhain 2007. Thug siad cuireadh do bhaill TradSoc chun ceol

traidisiúnta a sheinm ar a son. Reáchtáil siad féin comórtas amhránaíochta Gaeilge agus chuir siad comórtas damhsa ar siúl do na mic léinn. Ceapadh na buaiteoirí seo a leanas ar na comórtais chéanna: Eoghan Ó Coileáin (mac léinn fealsúnachta a fuair an chéad áit sa chomórtas amhránaíochta), Clare Tracy (mac léinn Tríonóideach le ceol a fuair an dara háit sa chomórtas céanna) agus Úna Leonard (mac léinn gnó a thug an comórtas rince léi).

Modúil an-fhiúntach ab ea é, de réir na mac léinn féin:

Emmet Ó Ceallaigh (Scoil na Talamhaíochta, Eolaíocht an Chothaithe agus an Leighas Tréidliachta): ní ghnáthmhodúl roghnach é an modúl seo mar leagann sé an-bhéim ar obair phraiticiúil trí mheán na Gaeilge in ionad an gnáthrud a dhéantar sa seomra ranga, agus thug sé an-seans dom an Ghaeilge a úsáid mar theanga bheo.

Lizzi Watts (Scoil an Leighis agus Eolaíocht an Leighis): is cinnte go raibh an-rath go deo ar Spraioi '07, agus go bhféadfaí cur leis an méid a tharla i mbliana, foghlaim ónár gcuid botún, agus tús a chur le traidisiún breá "Spraíúil" i UCD.

Ciarán Mac Raghnaill (Scoil na Gaeilge an Léinn Cheiltigh, Bhéaloideas Éireann agus na Teangeolaíochta): Murab ionann agus cúrsaí eile, bhraith mé gur foghlaim mé rud éigin fiúntach agus bhraith mé bródúil ag an deireadh fosta. Is é an modúl seo, gan amhras, an ceann is spraiúla san ollscoil seo.

Táthar ag súil go leanfar leis an modúl céanna agus go gcuirfear leis an spraioi!

Bord na Gaeilge is currently under the chairmanship of Professor Michael Doherty, School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine; further details on this module/other Bord na Gaeilge initiatives are available on www.ucd.ie/bnag or by contacting the Irish Language Officer, Clár Ní Bhuachalla at oifigeach.gaeilge@ucd.ie

Our photo shows Eoghan Ó Coileáin (School of Philosophy), winner of the 'Spraioi UCD' singing competition.



Is Ireland Different Anymore?



What makes Irish people different? This is the simple question behind Tom Inglis's new book *Global Ireland: Same Difference*. Not long ago, the Republic of Ireland was a relatively small, isolated, insular society in which the majority of people were white, Catholic and English-speaking. There was a sameness to everyday life, to the way people saw and understood themselves, and the world in which they lived. It was this similarity that made the Irish different.

Much has changed in the last fifty years. Ireland has opened up to the world. The global flows of people, technology, goods, media messages, knowledge and ideas have transformed the way people live their lives, the way they work, their identities and sense of self. Ireland has moved from a society and culture dominated by the Catholic Church to a consumer society dominated by the market and the media. Irish people have become less obsessed with

salvation and more obsessed with fulfilling their fantasies and desires. According to Inglis, Ireland is a society that has shifted from "a culture of self-denial and self-surrender to one of self-realization and self-indulgence".

The question then is - have Irish people managed to maintain a sense of national difference in a sea of Western consumer sameness? To help answer this question, Tom Inglis looks at the transformations that have taken place in family, community, tradition and place. He argues that to understand the impact globalisation has had on Irish culture, it is necessary to look at the local and the personal, in particular the emergence of a new individualism in Ireland.

Inglis argues that what makes Ireland different, exciting and attractive is the way that it combines the old with the new; a commitment to traditional ways of bonding and belonging is mixed with a new freedom and ability for people to explore, express and indulge themselves.

Global Ireland raises fundamental questions about where we have come from and where we are going. It is written in an exciting, lively and engaging manner that will make it attractive to all those interested about the nature and direction of life in contemporary Ireland.

Tom Inglis is an Associate Professor in the School of Sociology at UCD. He completed his bachelor's and master's degrees in UCD before studying for his PhD in Southern Illinois University. He worked for a number of years with AONTAS, the National Association of Adult Education before rejoining UCD in 1991. He has written extensively on contemporary Irish culture and society. His books include *Moral Monopoly: The Rise and Fall of the Catholic Church in Modern Ireland*, *Lessons in Irish Sexuality and Truth, Power and Lies: Irish Society and the Case of the Kerry Babies*.

Finnish President visits UCD



President Tarja Halonen (11th President of the Republic of Finland and Finland's first female head of state) was attending a lunch hosted by Dr Maurice Manning at Newman House in November 2007. Issues concerning social justice and the promotion of equality have been central themes throughout President Halonen's political career. While in Ireland, Ms Halonen met a wide range of political, educational and social leaders. Our picture shows (l-r) Dr Maurice Manning (President of the Irish Human Rights Commission), Dr Pentti Arajärvi (the Finnish President's husband), President Tarja Halonen and Dr Padraic Conway (Vice-President for University Relations).

cybercrime

Fighting cybercrime with forensics

When people think of cybercrime they usually conjure up images of a pale, young man working away in a dark room to hack into, or gain illegal access to, the databanks of multinational corporations and take them for every penny they have. Marie Boran (BSc in Computer Science 2002 and BA Journalism, Griffith College 2005) talks to Dr Pavel Gladyshev who lectures on the master's degree in Forensic Computing and Cybercrime Investigation from the UCD Centre for Cybercrime Investigation.



The first graduates of the University College Dublin Centre for Cybercrime Investigation MSc in Forensic Computing and Cybercrime Investigation at their conferring ceremony (6th December 2007) pictured (l-r) were Giorgio Ruggieri (Arma dei Carabinieri, Italy), Giuseppe Di Leva (Polizia di Stato, Italy), UCD President, Dr Hugh Brady, Garda Commissioner Fachtina Murphy, Bernhard Otupal and Werner Schuller (both Austrian Federal Police – The Bundeskriminalamt, currently on secondment to the International Criminal Police Organisation, INTERPOL in Lyon).

While this scenario does occur - with a staggering 98 per cent of all Irish organisations affected by cybercrime in some shape or form - this is only the tip of the iceberg, says Dr Pavel Gladyshev. Cybercrime involves the use of computers or other digital devices, like a mobile phone, and can range from relatively high technology crimes like the stealing of customer data to low technology crimes like murder evidence documented via email.

"The term cybercrime is very broad - it can involve crimes against computers such as illegal access and crimes in which a computer happens to be present like a bystander. The bottom line is that computers and other digital devices contain data and require special expertise to extract and correctly interpret it from an investigative perspective," explains Pavel. Computer evidence, like that of a fingerprint or a human hair, tells a story about the crime committed and can be an essential part of the body of evidence in a murder trial.

Like forensic detectives that collect physical evidence such as DNA, digital data detectives need special training. Pavel explains that the master's degree in UCD is the first qualification worldwide that deals with this specialised area, as all other forensic computing degrees approach the subject from the view of someone trained in IT or computing and not from a legal viewpoint.

The master's in Forensic Computing and Cybercrime Investigation from the UCD Centre for Cybercrime Investigation trains law enforcement officers from all over the world to tackle cybercrime by forensically examining and collecting computer-based evidence to deal with criminal activity ranging from cyberstalking to online credit card fraud. This master's programme is perfectly suited to the global cybercrime landscape says Pavel as "the Internet knows no boundaries."

"No matter what jurisdiction you are in, the problems are the same. When you connect to the Internet your country's boundary stops at your modem. Your computer is in a totally different space. Because cybercrime has such an international reach, it equally encompasses different areas of the globe but certain countries have more problems because they lack trained personnel in this area and they haven't developed legislation to deal with it," explains Pavel.

So even though law enforcement officers may be able to pinpoint the perpetrator of a cybercrime they may not be able to convict him or her simply because the relevant legislation is not in place. However, there are international developments in this area like the European Convention on Cybercrime developed in 2001 however it is still in development.

"The advantage of the master's course offered by UCD is its international accessibility," says Pavel, adding that it wouldn't be possible to deliver the programme without the active participation and support of the Garda Síochána.

"It began in 1998", says Detective Inspector Paul Gillen, head of the Computer Crime Investigation Unit (CCIU), a specialised unit inside the Garda Bureau of Fraud Investigation which investigates computer-related crime. Paul adds that the area of cybercrime was a relatively new responsibility for law enforcement back then and although there were qualifications out there, nothing specifically related to the law and so he approached UCD with a view to developing a unique course.

On a daily basis, Paul and his team spend the vast majority of their time forensically examining computers to retrieve evidence from various types of crime. They also spend time investigating the unauthorised computer access

and child pornography rings that operate on the Internet. Another aspect of cybercrime that Paul works on is computerised telecommunications fraud: "Phone lines in most organisations are operated by a computer system and those computers can be attacked and compromised. They can then be used to make international calls and a month later the company gets a colossal bill and realises it's been hacked."

Giving this example, Paul explains that the profile of cybercrime has considerably changed: "Years ago the hacker was perceived to be the spotty teenager doing it for peer kudos. Now it appears that money can be made - you can have organised criminal gangs who will try what is known as distributed denial of service attacks on company websites whose predominate trading presence is on the net. These companies cannot afford to be offline, therefore criminals can blackmail them before allowing them back online. Of course everything that occurs on the Internet occurs globally and we have experienced this in Ireland."

With 34 law enforcement officers currently taking this master's programme and the first students having just graduated, their skills are needed more than ever as both the sophistication and definition of cybercrime continues to evolve on a global level.

"More and more people use the Internet for communication using instant messaging and sites like Facebook and MySpace to share photographs and personal information. This creates increasing opportunities for cyberstalking," says Pavel. "Typically, in these cases, a detective would access the victim's computer for available evidence and take it from there."

"The sharing of personal details increases the opportunity for sexual predators to attack. Obviously it creates risks as children are now more computer and mobile savvy than ever before," Pavel adds. "This issue is increasingly relevant in light of social networking site MySpace, a popular hangout for teenagers and young adults, which found last July that 29,000 US-registered sex offenders were also active on the site. MySpace has since improved its technology to scan for and find these sexual predators."

The domestic end of cybercrime, while on the increase, can be sometimes overlooked by the general public while bigger crimes, like the recent theft of €40,000 from TSB customers in Cork using stolen laser card details, grab the headlines. However, cyberstalking, sexual



harassment and child pornography are all part of global cybercrime activity.

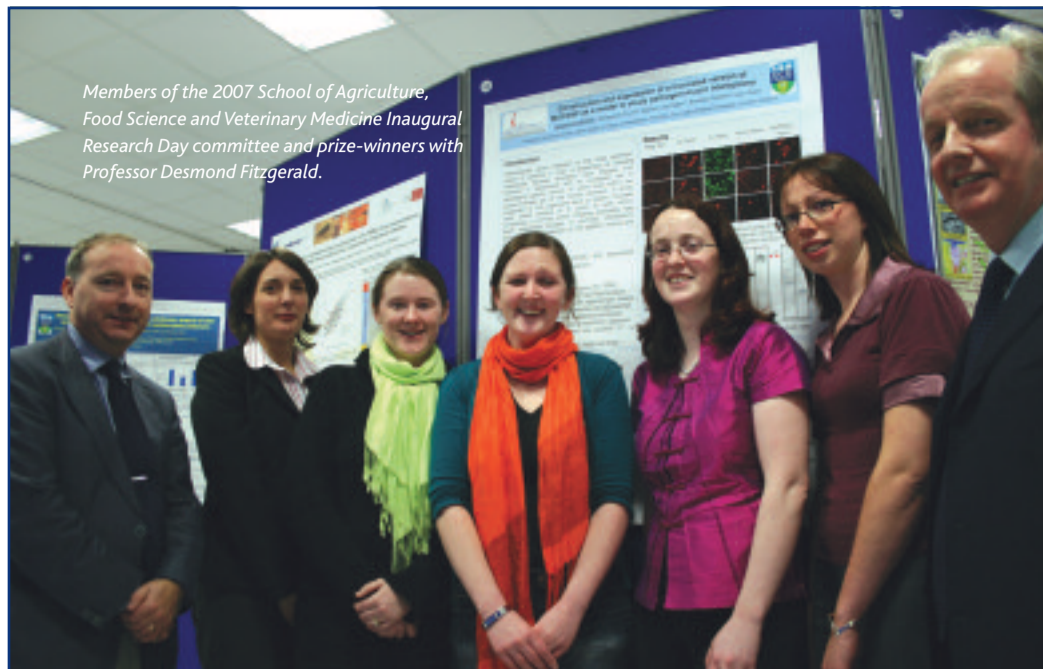
"Initially, we teach law enforcement officers the basics of computing and networking, then tactics and methodologies of investigating cybercrimes. We cover specific types of cybercrime but techniques are too generic to cover a broad range. Officers must know how to deal with computer evidence: how to preserve it and how to cordon off the crime scene."

With law enforcement officers from the UK, the Netherlands, France, Germany, Greece, United Arab Emirates and Hong Kong coming to UCD to gain expertise in this area, Ireland is leading the way in the fight against international cybercrime.

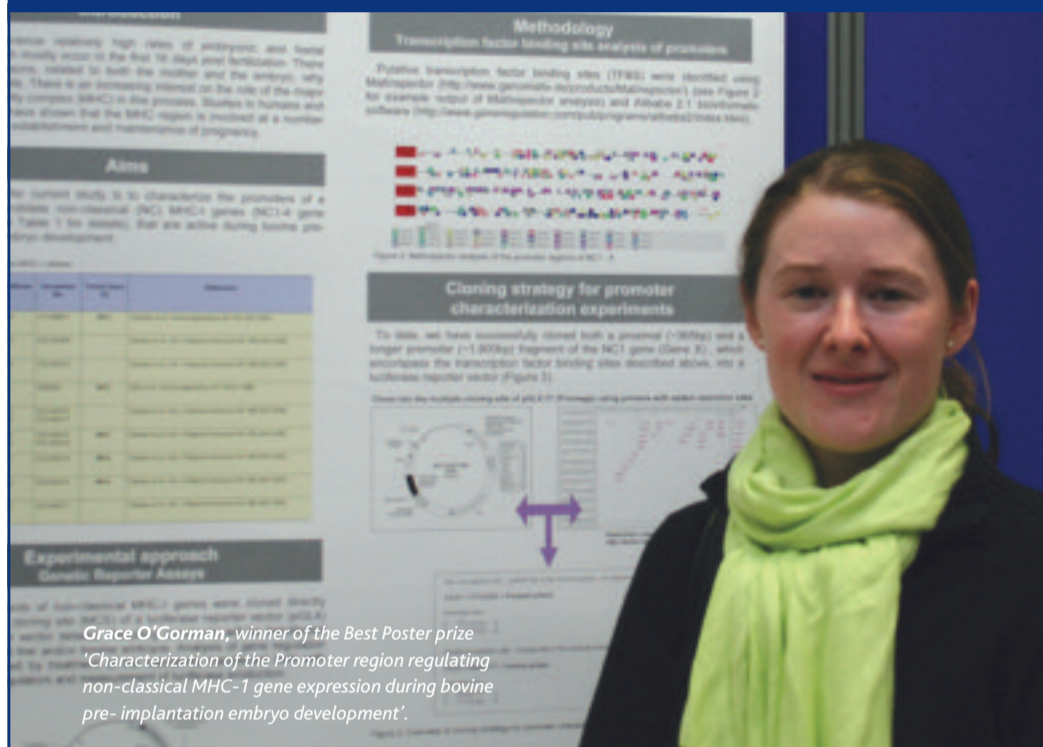
"The course is by law enforcement officers for law enforcement officers with the assistance of UCD providing the academic material and doing the research," says Paul. "UCD saw an opportunity to lead the world in this area and that is what they are doing."

Marie Boran writes in the Technology Section of the Irish Independent and for online magazine, Silicon Republic.





Members of the 2007 School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine Inaugural Research Day committee and prize-winners with Professor Desmond Fitzgerald.



Grace O'Gorman, winner of the Best Poster prize 'Characterization of the Promoter region regulating non-classical MHC-1 gene expression during bovine pre-implantation embryo development'.

Connect Groups supporting collaboration with DAHC

Addressing the question of how Connect Groups have facilitated his work, Dr Peter Doran (Scientific Director, UCD Clinical Research Centre) cites the example of the Centre for Cancer and Aging. This centre was formed by Dublin Academic Health Care (DAHC) and focuses on researching the most common internal cancer in the Irish population, colorectal cancer, in the elderly.

"On a strategic level UCD Clinical Research Centre leads this initiative, which involves a wide variety of groups and institutes including investigators at the Mater, St Vincent's and UCD." According to Dr Doran, a unique advantage of using UCD Connect Groups to communicate is that "including hospital consultants and researchers under the UCD Connect umbrella, reinforces the partnership and fosters collaboration, by providing a vehicle for communication and integration."

Dr Doran believes collaboration is key for an ambitious project involving thirty or more busy researchers and hospital consultants

based in various locations. "Getting everyone together is very difficult. With investigators on different campuses, traditional face-to-face interaction would substantially limit the research agenda. The availability of the Connect environment allows investigators to collaborate in more time-efficient ways. The alternative would be emails; for example the initial application for the Cancer Centre involved 870 emails, including 400 attachments. The Connect environment allows this to be reduced, saving everybody's time."

From a time-saving perspective, Connect Groups allows standard operating procedures, standard text, and research interventions to be readily available to group members and accessed at any time through Connect Groups. Access control guarantees a secure environment where sensitive data can only be viewed by designated members.

As the more disease specific research programmes at the Clinical Research Centre develop, Connect Groups will be the primary means of interacting with investigators.

Discovery and Innovation

In December 2007, a large number of students and staff members from the UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine highlighted the diverse range of research activity and interests within the School at the Inaugural Research Day in the UCD Veterinary Sciences Centre.

Led by Professor David Brayden (Director of Research, UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine) and supported by a hardworking committee comprising of Dr Trudee Fair (Chair), Dr Karina Pierce, Dr Jim Lyng, Dr Bridget Lynch, Professor Pieter Brama and Gráinne de Bhulbh. The event consisted of a welcome address from Professor Maurice

Boland (Principal of the UCD College of Life Sciences) and a series of poster and oral presentations highlighting the wealth of research taking place within the School. Professor David Brayden and Professor Desmond Fitzgerald (UCD Vice-President for Research) also provided contributions on recent successes with Professor Fitzgerald congratulating the School on its excellent research performance over the past twelve months and its excellent track record in attracting external funding.

Professor Fitzgerald also presented a number of prizes which was followed by a wine reception in the Veterinary Sciences Centre.

Prize-winners at the UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine Inaugural Research Day:

Best Poster Prize: Grace O'Gorman, Characterization of the Promoter region regulating non-classical MHC-1 gene expression during bovine pre-implantation embryo development. Sponsored by Applied Biosystems

Oral Presentations:

Postdoc Prize: Niamh Forde, Differential regulation of endometrial gene expression in cattle by progesterone and pregnancy status. Sponsored by Biosciences

Postgraduate Prize Winners:

First Prize: Sabrina Devereux, Utilisation of agricultural waste for the growth and optimization of *Trichoderma longibrachiatum*. Sponsored by Alltech

Second Prize: Anthony Dolan, Development of a novel quantitative reverse-transcriptase real-time PCR for total viable counts on fresh meat. Sponsored by Irish Farmers Journal

Third Prize: Manual Pinilla, Scintigraphic assessment of thyroid function in greyhounds. Sponsored by Irish Farmers Journal



literature

Revealing the Writer

Siún Ní Dhuinn (BA 2006) speaks to Evelyn Conlon, a multi-dimensional writer, who looks back on her time as writer-in-residence at the UCD School of English, Drama and Film from September to December 2007.



A member of Aosdána, awarded Arts Council of Ireland bursaries in literature 1988 and 1995, shortlisted for Irish Novel of the Year for 'Skin of Dreams' in 2004 and founding member of the Rape Crisis Centre, Evelyn Conlon speaks about her time in residency at UCD, about her writing, the vocation of the writer and the difficulties a writer can face.

Monaghan-born, Evelyn briefly attended UCD in 1970 when she was seventeen, where she studied English, history and philosophy. She did not complete her degree at that time, as she felt overwhelmed by university life. "I was out of my depth at UCD; I had no idea what university was about, really. But then I also think, I wasn't ready at that stage. I really needed to travel, experience life and to read more," she says of her time in UCD.

On her return to UCD as writer-in-residence in 2007 at the UCD School of English, Drama and Film, she enjoyed a different experience and delighted in meeting with students, providing advice on writing and leading writing workshops.

"I loved it. It was very much student-focused. For the students who were doing an MA in Anglo-Irish Literature, I was adding another dimension to their understanding of reading. In a way, what I was there to do was to add something that they will use later, maybe not while they are doing the MA and maybe not while they're still studying, but much later on. The goal I had was to add value to what people were reading."

"I was also facilitating a creative writing workshop and although some of the students who attended may not turn out to be writers, they will all be readers and that will be a huge

part of their lives, a defining part of their lives. There were some students who will, I believe, become writers. It was challenging and I enjoyed it thoroughly."

Evelyn leads numerous writing workshops in Ireland and internationally each year, yet highlights the difficulties facing a writer in 'teaching writing'. She is of the opinion that it is not possible to teach a non-writer to be one. She says there are some tips you can give but to teach writing is inherently unachievable. "You can teach them about the pitfalls, you can maybe inspire them, or indeed you can put them off."

Becoming a writer was never a conscious decision for Evelyn, it just came naturally. Her venture into writing was rewarded when she won the European Schools Day essay competition in 1969 and had her first stories published at the age of seventeen in *New Irish Writing* in the Irish Press.

"I decided I wanted to be a novelist before I knew what a novel was. I just thought there were books. But there was something about the word that I had obviously heard on the radio; and I thought now that's about me, that's it. I remember Leland Bardwell being questioned about when she realised she was going to be a writer and she said she didn't realise it, she just is a writer."

Evelyn has written three novels, three collections of short stories and compiled and edited four others, but she believes that whatever she is writing at the time is generally her favourite.

"I suppose the favourite is always the one you're working on, because you're grappling with it and you're very familiar with it. Or the one you've just finished, that hasn't come out yet, that too has a special place. If I am preparing for a reading and I want to read something different, I am often pleasantly surprised when I revisit a short story that I wrote some time ago, having forgotten that I actually did achieve what I had set out to do."

At the age of nineteen, Evelyn travelled to Australia and South-east Asia. She made the journey to Australia by boat and returned, three years later, overland by bus via Kathmandu. This trip proved to be a crucial decision that changed her path in life and remoulded her perception of Ireland, both as a writer and as an Irish woman.

"I published two short stories when I was seventeen or eighteen. There were certain things I wanted to say and didn't have to nerve to say them within the culture that I was living at the

time. Not only did I not have the nerve, but I certainly wasn't being encouraged to say them either. I think that going so far away at that stage in my life, when I didn't know anybody in Australia, was a marvellous freeing of the mind. What you did with that freedom afterwards was up to yourself. But it gave me a new way of looking at Ireland."

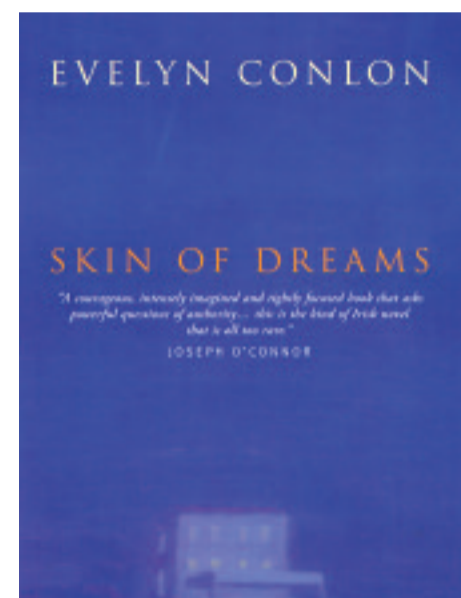
On her return, Evelyn discovered her travelling experiences had changed her and she struggled to accept Irish society's norms and values. She had become accustomed to Australia's more liberal lifestyle and attitude; Ireland's conservative views astonished her.

"The difficulties that I had faced before I left Ireland now seemed insignificant to me because I had been away. It wasn't until I began to get into disagreements with elements of society that I realised what it was like. In a way, that experience at that crucial stage of my life, affected the way that I related to everything in Ireland. And it's only at that age that it can happen to you. That set my life and my relationship with this country on a certain road and it has never changed."

Of all the reviews of Evelyn's work, there is a common consensus that she and her writing are powerful and stirring, and there are also fascinating comments about Evelyn's personal life, outside of the literary sphere. Evelyn returned to third level education after the birth of her first son. In order to facilitate this, Evelyn found it necessary to start a crèche in NUI Maynooth, leading to the comment, "this is the only woman you will ever meet who set up a crèche in a seminary". She talks about setting up the crèche.

"I didn't think about it at all. It was something that had to be done. And I suppose, in a way, I was driven by the fact that I myself needed it. It was a necessary thing, there weren't that many mature students at the time, but talking to some other women, and what their arrangements were, I became aware that in fact it was a huge thing; and without that sort of support you were never ever going to get parents to have the experience of Adult Education. We held some meetings, and yes, we experienced opposition but ultimately common sense prevailed and the crèche opened and was invaluable in helping parents to achieve third level qualifications."

Following on from the success 'Scarlet as a Real Colour' (Attic Press 1989), the title story was performed at Edinburgh Theatre Festival. Her last novel 'Skin of Dreams' which was shortlisted for Irish Novel of the Year, centres on the issue



of Capital Punishment, her research included a visit to death row in the US. She is currently finishing a novel that examines whether memorials are essential to the act of remembering. The story dips in and out of Australia past and present and looks at the story of the 4000 famine orphan girls, transported to Australia between 1848 and 1850.

Her short stories have been widely anthologised and translated. Evelyn is currently finalising a number of projects.

Siún Ní Dhuinn (BA 2006) is currently with the UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics.

UCD historian tops bestseller list



Professor Richard Aldous (Head of the UCD School of History and Archives) has achieved what is thought to be a first for an academic. His recent publication, *Great Irish Speeches*, topped the Irish bestsellers list in December.

Full of passion, poetry, drama and conviction, this stirring anthology is a celebration of 50 speeches that have shaped Irish history. From Henry Grattan's 18th-century cry of freedom to Bertie Ahern's declaration that Ireland's hour

has come, *Great Irish Speeches* includes eulogies and damnations, new beginnings and last words, threats of war and demands for peace.

Richard told UCD today: "The UCD School of History & Archives has a long tradition of making academic history accessible to as wide an audience as possible. *Great Irish Speeches* is part of that tradition. The fact that it was the number one seller over the busy Christmas period suggests there is a huge and enthusiastic audience for history. This is something that the university is keen to encourage."

The selection is comprehensive and diverse. Each speech is accompanied by a biography of the speaker and the story of why it was significant. Inspiring and thought-provoking, *Great Irish Speeches* offers a unique, first-hand perspective on these turning points in Ireland's history.

The oratorical skills of the greatest names in Irish politics and culture are here: Henry Grattan, Daniel O'Connell, Charles Stewart Parnell, Michael Collins, WB Yeats, Eamon de Valera, John F Kennedy and Seamus Heaney, to name but a few.

Interim College Principal for College of Life Sciences

Professor Maurice Boland was recently appointed as Interim Principal of the UCD College of Life Sciences. Maurice was formerly Head of the School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine.

His UCD leadership roles have included acting Head of the Department of Animal Science, acting Vice-President for UCD Research and Dean of the Faculty of Agri-Food and the Environment.

He was appointed to the Chair of Animal Husbandry in 1994. His research work to date comprises of the supervision of 40 research master's and approximately 30 PhD students in animal reproduction, embryo transfer and embryo preservation. He has also mentored the research and training of several postdoctoral fellows. He completed sabbatical periods in the University of California at Davis and at CSIRO, Australia. Professor Boland has served on the editorial board of three international journals and acted as reviewer for five other journals. He has been invited to give several lectures, plenary and conference addresses to leading international academic institutes and congresses worldwide. Professor Boland has also served on a number of national and international advisory and evaluation bodies.

He is a member of the Governing Authority, (GA) Finance, Remuneration and Asset Management Committee and the University Committee for Academic Appointments, Tenure and Promotion. He was recently elected to the Senate of the NUI.



Ireland advances in computational research

A major step in Ireland's quest to be a centre for computational research was taken on Monday 14 January with the announcement that one of the six European centres for atomistic and molecular computations will be based in Ireland.

For three decades, CECAM (Centre Européen de Calcul Atomique et Moléculaire - 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.

CECAM was developed on the basis that "the level in many laboratories could be raised by bringing together, for short periods of time from these several laboratories, scientists who are interested in the same or related problems, so that they could benefit from a mutual stimulation, which will lead to a much more rapid development of ideas in the employment of computers."

In March 2007, the CECAM Scientific Council concluded that the rapid growth in the area of computer simulations, and the concomitant expansion of its activities would make it necessary to upgrade the structure of CECAM from the original 1969 model. It commissioned a taskforce to formulate the requirements for such an upgraded CECAM (CECAM++). By modernising its organisational structure, it could play a key role in the European co-ordination of novel application areas of scientific computing that have emerged since its foundation.

As a result it issued a request for bids to relocate CECAM and reorganise its structure to

take it to the next level. The community of computer simulators in Ireland, north and south, the Irish Government, Irish industry, and researchers in high performance computing, maths and computational science, together with experimental researchers in exciting areas of scientific investigation, presented a bid in September to host CECAM and to help create a strong and sustainable future as CECAM++.

This bid was led by Professor Nick Quirke and co-ordinated by UCD.

The UCD-led Ireland bid was shortlisted and ranked third out of twelve bids from leading European universities. A site visit to UCD by a taskforce representing the CECAM Council was held in January 2008. This site visit was attended by Mary Hanafin TD, Minister for Science and Education who welcomed the taskforce to Ireland and was followed by an excellent programme of presentations by lead researchers from across UCD, Tyndall UCC, Trinity and Queens University. Other contributors included ICHEC, CRANN, SFI, HEA, IUA and many others involving a total delegation of over 45 people.

On Monday 14 January the CECAM Council announced that, due to the strength of the bids and site visits, it will become a multi-node organisation, each node running a greatly expanded set of activities. Lausanne, Switzerland was chosen as the new headquarters. Of the six shortlisted bids, Ireland was the runner-up, a significant achievement and Ireland, represented by Nick Quirke (Principal, UCD College of Engineering, Mathematical and Physical Sciences), has been selected to chair and lead the newly established CECAM Integration Taskforce to select and integrate the new nodes into the organisation.

Pictured at the CECAM sit visit (l-r) 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).



health

Eating Disorders

Amid the current trend for 'size zero' and the worrying epidemic of obesity, are Ireland's young people achieving the happy medium? Danielle Barron (BSc 2005) talks to Professor Fiona McNicholas.

Adolescent attitudes towards food, diet and body image were recently examined by Professor Fiona McNicholas, professor of child psychiatry at UCD and her colleagues at the Lucena Clinic and Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin.

As Professor McNicholas explains, while the available literature contains much in the way of international data, these attitudes had not been looked at in Ireland before now, with no previous studies examining the rates of dieting or eating pathology in an Irish adolescent population.

This unprecedented study looked at the eating habits of teenagers, both male and female, all in second level education. Fifty-two schools were randomly selected from the Department of Education's database, including co-educational; all-male; all-female; urban and rural; non-fee paying and fee paying, so that a representative sample of Irish school-going adolescents was obtained.

"Over 3,000 students were eventually involved in the study, ranging from 13 to 18 years old, and the study cohort was roughly 50/50 between boys and girls", says Professor McNicholas. "The students were asked to complete several questionnaires, looking at eating attitudes, exercise habits, general quality of life and well-being. It was quite a broad overview, albeit with some focus on healthy eating and attitudes towards food."

It transpired from analysis of the students' answers that more than two-thirds of all the girls surveyed were concerned with dieting. "They answered that they were either already on a diet or that they should be on a diet as they thought they needed to lose weight", explains Professor McNicholas. "Furthermore, one third of the girls surveyed were dissatisfied with their bodies and wished to change."

The study also employed a measure frequently used in eating studies, called the Eating Attitude Test (EAT). As Professor McNicholas explains, someone who attains a score of above 20 on this test is regarded as being part of a clinical, or 'at risk' group.

"All of us might say from time to time, I hate my thighs or I need to lose weight, and those feelings would score, but a score of 20 means that there is a significant amount of concern and focus on issues relating to weight and image. Some 11 per cent of females and 2.5 per cent of males surveyed scored above 20 on the test, and this cohort shared particular characteristics", she explains.

"When we looked at the group that scored above the clinical cut-off, we found that in

general those girls tended to be more overweight than underweight. They also tended to perceive themselves as less popular than their peers. This percentage also felt that they were less academically able and that they had a lower quality of life than their peers."

In addition, media issues were explored as part of the study. The participants were asked how the media influenced the way they felt about themselves and whether they thought the media portrayed body image in the right light. Most of the people in the eating concern group felt significantly adversely affected by the pressure from the media to conform to very small sizes. Most of the group that had no concerning eating behaviour answered that they found the media portrayal of body shape and size to be far too thin but interestingly some people responded that they felt that it was accurate.

"People that had eating pathology were more likely to say it was just right. Their perception of normal was quite different, where they are always striving to achieve that thinner ideal."

The study also used another measure, called the Eating Disorder Inventory (EDI). This identifies those that engage in behaviours that display a strong drive for thinness, risk of bulimia and body dissatisfaction. Results showed that females outnumbered males in all three subscales, but while over a quarter of females were above the clinical cut-off point on the bulimia subscale, some 12 per cent of boys were also at risk of bulimia.

Professor McNicholas and her team also attempted to estimate how many, in the entire sample, had the most severe and disabling forms of eating habits. "What we are picking up is that a lot of girls are worried about their weight and body image but we tried to see could we predict those at risk of anorexia or indeed, bulimia." To do this, the researchers calculated the Body Mass Index (BMI) of all those that had concerning EAT results.

"If somebody is underweight you would expect them not to be concerned about being fat and not to be on a diet. However, we found that, despite being underweight, they were also on a diet or felt they should go on a diet. That would suggest faulty thinking."

Despite the much higher prevalence of high scores among females, the number of males with eating concerns and body image problems was not insignificant, admits Prof McNicholas. "When you look at the male figures you find that seven per cent of males were dissatisfied with their body and 12 per cent were involved in some bulimic behaviour where there were overeating and control issues. Males were,

however, more likely to say they wanted to gain weight than lose it. Males are very focused on increasing their body mass, rather than reducing it. We found that males are more concerned with body shape, whereas for females it is about weight."

Professor McNicholas admits that there appeared to be very little knowledge of the concept of healthy eating among the students.

"Those that want to lose weight are less likely to go on a diet or use calorie restriction or exercise as healthy means of losing weight. They are more likely to become involved in the binge/fast cycles that would be typical of bulimia." Indeed, a 'small but not insignificant number' - 1.2 per cent of females and 1 per cent of males - reported vomiting after meals. Follow-up research will look at what invokes the pathological state of unhealthy eating habits and body image in adolescents.

"In today's society with so much emphasis on how you look, what is the difference between somebody who is able to maintain a very

positive self-image in a healthy way versus those that start going into the pathological state where they decompensate and start losing weight?" In fact, the EAT and EDI results were where the Irish study differed in comparison to other published norms, explains Professor McNicholas.

"Although the numbers scoring above the clinical cut-off were the same internationally, when you look at the subscales of those measures, Irish girls, in particular, score higher on the bulimia and eating control and lower on dieting." This made the researchers question whether Irish girls are more likely to be overweight and more in danger of engaging in binge eating, she admits.

"Overall, it appears to present a bulimia type picture rather than an anorexia type picture when you compare it to other countries but this would need to be looked at further," she explains.

Danielle Barron is a freelance national science journalist.





Discovering UCD at the 6th year Open Days

Pictured below speaking with Paul Beglan from the UCD School of Arts, Celtic Studies and Human Sciences Programme Office, 6th year student Corinne Cahill was one of almost 6,000 visitors to the 2007 Open Days. The prospective undergraduate students and their families, teachers and guidance counsellors attended tailored talks, took campus tours, and spoke with staff about their specific areas of interest.



Commercialisation Award for AMS Research Centre

Enterprise Ireland recently presented Professor Gerry Byrne and Eamonn Ahearne (UCD School of Electrical, Electronic & Mechanical Engineering) with a Commercialisation Award 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 Enterprise Ireland's commercialisation scheme, came up with a process for improving the performance of ABS pumping systems.

This project is recognised by Enterprise Ireland and the ABS Group as an excellent example of Industry-Academia collaboration. The project provided the company with significant

competitive advantage through technological development and the transfer of significant knowledge. ABS provides water transport and treatment technology to 100 countries worldwide.

Professor Gerry Byrne told UCD today: "Working on projects such as this has greatly benefitted the researchers in AMS as it provides an excellent bridge between academic achievement and industry experience. For example, two excellent researchers on this programme, Eddie Kennedy and Paul Mitchell, having completed doctoral and master's qualifications in Engineering Science, have since joined Diamond Innovations in key engineering positions."

Pictured at the awards ceremony (l-r) Professor Gerry Byrne, Jim Lawler (Enterprise Ireland) and Eamonn Ahearne.



Driving a sustainable agri-food sector: the new roadmap for education, research and innovation

In November, 200 leading executives from the agri-food industry attended a major conference organised by UCD, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and Teagasc. Speakers at the conference, 'A new Roadmap for Education, Research and Innovation' included UCD President, Dr Hugh Brady; Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Mary Coughlan TD; former Programme Director for Biotechnology, Agriculture and Food research at the European Commission, Christian Pattermann; leading food executives, farmers, scientists, veterinarians; representatives from the rural development and new industries sectors and senior representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Teagasc and UCD.

Professor Maurice Boland (Principal of the UCD College of Life Sciences) told the conference that the graduate of the future must play a more central role in entrepreneurship and innovation and must be the key link in the transfer of new science and technology to

farmers, food processors and those involved in rural business. Professor Boland also spoke of the role UCD has in producing the next generation of research scientists who will make a vital contribution to the innovation economy.

Larry Murrin (Chief Executive of Dawn Farm Foods and Chairman of IBEC'S Food and Drink Industry Ireland) said the state research and development model for food used during the past two decades will not work in the future. "While good public research is highly desirable, the vast bulk of funding on research must have a strong commercial focus or at the very least market relevance. Research and development must enhance business performance, productivity and ultimately our competitiveness," he stressed. The conference examined a recent EU Foresight Report which raised serious questions about the ability of current research and education programmes to drive a competitive and innovative agri-food industry over the next decade and beyond, how these perceived deficiencies apply to Ireland and how to develop the best programmes and structures that best serve the needs of the industry.

Pictured (l-r) Jim Mc Carthy, Tillage Farmer; Martin Heraghty (DAFF); Doinn Graham (Rural Resource Development) and Maurice Boland (UCD).



Former Latvian President visits Delargy Centre

Former President of Latvia, Dr Vaira Vike-Freiberga, visited the National Folklore Collection at the UCD Delargy Centre, part of the School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics during her recent visit to Ireland. The former president had expressed her interest in Irish and Latvian folklore during President McAleese's visit to Latvia recently and Professor Séamas Ó Catháin was delighted to welcome Dr Vike-Freiberga and her husband to the Delargy Centre. They were brought on a private tour of the Centre and its collections by Professor Ó Catháin. Dr Vike-Freiberga spent her time perusing rare books and items in the collection that were of interest to her.

Dr Vike Vaira-Freiberga was President of the Republic of Latvia from 1999 until July 2007. She played a leading role in the transformation of the country in recent years which culminated with Latvia's entry into the European Union. The former president is considered an outspoken pundit on social issues, moral values, European historical dialogue and democracy and was awarded the 2005 Hannah Arendt Prize for political thought. While visiting Ireland, the former President also spoke on Latvian emigration and its negative effects on Latvia at a session of the National Forum on Europe in Dublin Castle.



A Good Adventure

The UCD Good Adventurers team, Business and Law students, Laurance Banville, Barry Colfer and Patrick Rath, was one of nine undergraduate student teams from across the world who competed in the final of the JP Morgan Good Venture Competition in New York in January - the team came a creditable second place to Yale University.

Each of the finalists presented their case to a panel of senior JP Morgan Investment Banking executives as to why the philanthropic non-profit organisation they represent should receive the grand prize - a \$25,000 donation from JP Morgan.

The UCD Good Adventurers, who were the only Irish or UK team to have reached the finals, represented the Peter McVerry Trust; a charity committed to reducing homelessness, drug

misuse and social disadvantage in Ireland through its provision of housing and support services.

The UCD team competed against teams from Harvard University, Brown University and Yale University, Columbia University, Stanford University, Washington & Lee University, Newcastle University, Mount Holyoke University and University of Pennsylvania.

"After meeting Fr Peter McVerry I was inspired by his enthusiasm for helping young people to overcome their social problems and succeed in life," says Laurence Banville, who led the UCD team in the competition. "Seeing the work of the Trust, I feel privileged to have been born into the family and social setting I grew up in," he continues "I believe that this charity is an investment in making Dublin a better place."

New vistas on archaeology and material culture

Professor Julian Thomas, who holds the chair of archaeology at the University of Manchester, delivered the latest in the current series of UCD Humanities Institute of Ireland (HII) Distinguished Lectures in December. The title of his lecture was 'Beyond material culture: material things and human existence'.

In a wide-ranging and engaging lecture, Professor Thomas considered the background to the development of material culture as the central concern of archaeological research. He argued that there is a danger that the ways in which material culture is studied and categorised can replicate the mind: body duality that is a hallmark of modernity, rather than providing insight and understanding of ways of life in the past. He pointed to approaches that can overcome this problem, notably considering

materiality as part and parcel of the way in which people construct an engagement with the world and each other. Professor Thomas' major preoccupation throughout his career has been locating ways of comprehending prehistoric societies which interrogate the prejudices and assumptions of the contemporary west.

The HII Distinguished Lectures aim to showcase leading-edge international thinking in the humanities and to provide a platform for new approaches towards and ways of engagement between the humanities and society.

Pictured at the lecture are (l-r): Professor Gabriel Cooney (UCD School of Archaeology); Professor Julian Thomas (University of Manchester) and Professor Muiris O'Sullivan (UCD School of Archaeology).



Optimising Drug Delivery Research in Ireland

€5.2m was awarded to the Irish Drug Delivery Strategic Research Cluster by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) in December 2007. This cluster brings together the major drug delivery research groups from UCD Conway Institute, the Centre for Chemical Synthesis and Biology (CSCB) and from Ireland's three Schools of Pharmacy based at UCC, TCD and RCSI. Additional support to the value of €2.2m has been obtained from industrial partners Genzyme Ireland (Waterford), Sigmoid Biotechnologies (Dublin) and Warwick Effect Polymers (Coventry, UK). The lead principal investigator is David Brayden, Associate Professor of Drug Delivery and a member of the UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine and the Conway Institute.

The cluster will investigate how a selection of novel formulations of polymers can be used to promote oral and inhaled delivery of biotech molecules that normally have to be injected (eg insulin) or molecules that cannot be delivered to the body in an acceptable format by any route of delivery (eg genes).

"Ireland has a tremendous pharmaceutical tradition in drug delivery research and we saw the opportunity to make a truly national network of key academic researchers with complementary skills in pharmacology, chemistry, and pharmaceutical analysis and formulation. We have also established a range of predictive in-vitro screening systems to see if a drug is absorbed through the gut or through the lungs or not. Connecting the

major elements of drug delivery research of the Schools of Pharmacy was inevitable and we exploited the fact that many of the key people had interacted before when Elan Corporation had a significant drug delivery research unit in Dublin," said Professor Brayden. "Another key aspect was to build a relationship with a major biotech company, such as Genzyme, who are looking to universities to provide them with well-trained PhD students and to advance their R & D programme in Ireland, thereby assisting them to remain here for the long haul. They also have world-class research scientists in their Boston HQ, with whom we will interact in respect of gene delivery."

There will also be a benefit for UCD Conway Institute where new biotech molecules are being discovered to treat disease. Researchers will be able to link to the cluster to learn how such molecules can be formulated and delivered in an acceptable format for patients through clinical trials. The cluster has funding in place for twelve PhD studentships and six post-doctoral fellowships based throughout the four institutions. SFI has agreed to fund the PhD students for four years and, in that period, the students will receive taught structured thematic modules in drug delivery from the principal investigators, in addition to their research projects. It also intends to provide participating companies with onsite modular courses tailored to their needs.

Pictured at the launch of the Irish Drug Delivery Research Cluster (l-r): Dr Sally-Ann Cryan (RCSI), Dr Carsten Ehrhardt (TCD), Prof David Brayden (UCC) and Prof Caitriona O'Driscoll (UCD).



Mise an Fear Cheoil

Ag Oireachtas na Samhna 2007 i gCathair na Mart fógraíodh go raibh Gradam Uí Shúilleabháin buaite ag an leabhar *Mise an Fear Ceoil: Séamus Ennis - Dialann Taistil 1942-1946*. Gradam é seo i gcuimhne ar Dhonncha Ó Súilleabháin, iar-rúnaí ar Oireachtas na Gaeilge. Bronntar an gradam gach uile bhliain ar an leabhar Gaeilge is fear do dhaoine fásta.

Agus é ag bronnadh an ghradam mhíneigh an tAire Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta, Éamon Ó Cuív TD, go raibh duais chiste €15,000 ar fad ag dul leis an ngradam seo; €10,000 d'fhoilsitheoir Leabhar na Bliana do Dhaoine Fásta agus duais €5,000 d'údar an leabhair sin.

Dá réir sin, bronnadh duais €10,000 ar na foilsitheoirí Cló Iar-Chonnachta agus €5,000 ar Rionach uí Ógáin, léachtóir le Béaloideas sa gColáiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath a rinne eagarthóireacht ar an dialann. Dúirt an tAire go bhfuil "a fhios ag chuide dhuine faoin duais Nobel sa litríocht, duais an Booker nó duais Whitbread. Níl aon amhras ach gurb é Gradam Uí Shúilleabháin an leagan Gaelach dóibh sin. Ní amháin go ngníomhaíonn an comórtas mar spreagadh d'fhoilsitheoirí agus do scríbhneoirí le hábhar cruthaitheach, comhaimseartha a chur i gcló ach músclaíonn sé spéis lucht léite níos fairsinge."

Is éard atá sa leabhar, cuntas laethúil a scríobh Séamus Mac Aonghusa nó Séamus Ennis mar ab fhearr aithne air, bailitheoir lánaimseartha ceoil agus amhrán le linn a thréimhse le Coimisiún Béaloideas Éireann a bhí lonnaithe san am sa gColáiste Ollscoile in Ardán Phort an Iarla. Tá léarscáileanna, agus léaráidí, maille le nótaí agus innéacsanna a roinneann le hábhar curtha le téacs na dialainne.

Sa mbliain 2002 bhronn An Chomhairle um Thaighde sna Dána agus sna hEolaíochtaí Sóisialta scoláireacht shinsearach taighde de chuid Rialtas na hÉireann ar Rionach don obair thaighde ar an dialann. Rinne sí cuid mhór obair pháirce agus í i mbun taighde don leabhar. aMar chuid den obair eagarthóireachta, bailíodh cuimhní cinn ó dhaoine a chonaic Séamus Ennis i mbun obair pháirce le linn na thréimhse sin, ó dhaoine a thug ábhar dó agus ó dhaoine a raibh cloiste acu faoin mbailitheoir a bheith i measc an phobail ag bailiú. Bhí práinn ag baint leis na cuimhní cinn a bhailiú agus a chur i dtoll a chéile. Thug an gradam aitheantas don taighde a rinneadh.

Nuair a foilsíodh an leabhar, rinne Peter Browne, píobaire agus craoltóir, é a sheoladh i dTeach Newman mí Aibreán 2007 agus rinneadh an dara cló ar an leabhar i mí Deireadh Fómhair.

In November 2007 at the Oireachtas - the Irish language and culture festival in Westport - *Mise an Fear Ceoil: Séamus Ennis - Dialann Taistil 1942-1946 [I am the Music Man: Séamus Ennis Field Diaries 1942-1946]* was awarded Gradam Uí Shúilleabháin, a prize established in memory of Donncha Ó Súilleabháin, former secretary of the Oireachtas. It is awarded annually for the best book in Irish for adults.

At the presentation ceremony, Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Eamon Ó Cuív TD announced the award of €10,000 for the publishers Cló Iar-Chonnachta and €5,000 for the author/editor Rionach uí Ógáin, senior lecturer in Irish Folklore at UCD. The Minister said that everyone is aware of the Nobel, Booker and Whitbread awards in literature and said that Gradam Uí Shúilleabháin is their Irish language equivalent. He also said that Gradam Uí Shúilleabháin motivates publishers and writers to produce creative, contemporary material and helps the creation of a broader readership.

Mise an Fear Ceoil: Séamus Ennis - Dialann Taistil 1942-1946, comprises the journal of Séamus Mac Aonghusa, better known today as Séamus Ennis, during his years as full-time collector of music and song with the former Irish Folklore Commission. The commission was then located in UCD, Earlsfort Terrace. The book contains

maps, illustrations, photographs and indices of people and places in addition to much biographical information.

In 2002 the editor received an IRCHSS Senior Research Fellowship for the diary research. Much of this research involved fieldwork in the areas where Ennis collected, mostly in Conamara and Donegal, during which Rionach made recordings of those who remembered the collector in the 1940s. The urgency of documenting memories or inherited memories of the collector was evident.

Mise an Fear Ceoil first appeared in late March 2007 and was launched by Peter Browne, a former student of Irish folklore at UCD, piper and broadcaster. The launch took place in Newman House in April 2007. The book was re-issued in October 2007.



Students Win Fantasy Budget Competition

UCD Quinn School students have won the annual Fantasy Budget competition run by the Irish Taxation Institute.

Each year, undergraduate business students have an opportunity to create their own 'government budget' and develop their own policy initiatives. Teams of students come together to brainstorm ideas on how the budget could be used to improve the economy for everyone. Each team had to formulate between five and ten policy initiatives that they

would like to see the Minister for Finance present on budget day.

Participating students had to outline how their proposals would impact on different sections of the population, on industry and on Ireland generally.

The UCD Quinn School students were commended on their originality, sound reasoning and the awareness of the likely impact of their proposals.

Pictured are the first placed team from UCD Quinn School of Business: Tommy Aylmer, Keith Davies, Sarah Kelly and Art Malone pictured with lecturer Evelyn Cregan, Course Co-ordinator Dr Gerardine Doyle, Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Martin Cullen TD and ITI President, Joan O'Connor.



The Computer Scientists of tomorrow

UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics recently launched its inaugural weekend workshop series to promote undergraduate computer science degree programmes at UCD. These introductory workshops, developed with the assistance of Clare McInerney from LERO at University of Limerick, form an integral part of the promotion and student recruitment initiatives currently being implemented by the school, with the support of the HEA.

These public events are targeted mainly at Leaving Certificate students in an effort to introduce the basic principles of computer science, as well as providing an opportunity to explore the environment and facilities which the School provides. It is felt that through greater understanding of both the subject matter and environment,

students will be encouraged to pursue their chosen programmes with increased determination and enjoyment. These full-day events are aimed at providing practical experience similar to that



provided for current students but also with the understanding that, for the most part, attendees are being exposed to material for the first time.

The initial January workshop, led by Dr Michael O'Neill, Karl Abbey and Erik Hemberg, saw students from across the country travel to UCD.

Through the use of innovative teaching and learning methodologies, attendees were provided with an insight into the basic principles of software development in a fun and informative manner. Scratch, a learning tool developed at MIT, forms the platform on which the workshops are developed. Aimed at teaching basic programme structure in an entertaining manner, this software succeeds in increasing the accessibility of software programming for the uninitiated.

The ultimate goal of these events is to promote UCD as a highly attractive option for those seeking to pursue computer science undergraduate programmes. It is hoped that through the continued development of these workshops, in conjunction with ongoing promotional endeavours, UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics can provide insight and understanding for students and establish UCD as their primary choice for third level education.

With the first session proving to be a resounding success and all remaining sessions booked out in advance, the future for these workshops looks promising. With a projected shortfall in graduates from technical disciplines over the coming years, UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics, through development of such initiatives, is hoping to pioneer the revitalisation of the high-quality graduate stream.

Abey Campbell, PhD researcher in the UCD School of Computer Science & Informatics talks with prospective student Eugene Finnegan.



Enhancing the Graduate Research and Learning Environment

Dr Hugh Brady recently opened the Joint Graduate Research Centre in the Newman Building. This centre, creating an additional 50 workstations, is a collaborative initiative by the UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies and the UCD College of Human Sciences to enhance the graduate student research and learning environment and to foster collaboration and an interdisciplinary approach amongst their graduate students.

Pictured in the attached photograph at the launch (l-r) are Dr Marc Caball, Graduate School Director and Professor Mary Daly, College Principal, in the UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies; Ms Cliona de Bhaldrath Marsh, Newman Building Project Director; Dr Hugh Brady, President; Professor Brigid Laffan, College Principal, and Professor Ben Tonra, Graduate School Director, in the College of Human Sciences

Environmental Change Management Spin-out wins the NovaUCD 2007 Entrepreneur Award

AP EnvEcon has won NovaUCD's 2007 Entrepreneur Award and a prize of €5,000 after being declared the overall winner of the 12th NovaUCD Campus Company Development Programme (CCDP).

AP EnvEcon is a provider of decision-support systems, solutions and specialist advice to the public and private sector for the management of environmental change. AP EnvEcon is a spin-out from the Environmental Economics Unit of UCD's School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy and was co-founded by Professor Peter Clinch and Dr Andrew Kelly.

Environmental issues associated with climate change, air quality, transport management and land use are major policy issues at national, European Union and global levels and will remain so for some time to come. This environmental agenda requires rapid and intelligent responses from the public and private sector. AP EnvEcon is providing high-quality systems and solutions for the public and private sector as they come under increasing regulatory pressures to improve environmental performance.

Professor Peter Clinch is the Jean Monnet Professor of European Environmental Policy and Professor of Regional and Urban Planning at UCD. In 2007 he was appointed to the National Economic and Social Council. In 2001, Professor

Clinch was awarded the Barrington Medal by the Council of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland for excellence in research in the social sciences for his work on sustainability and economic growth in an Irish context.

Dr Andrew Kelly is an environmental economist who specialises in greenhouse gas and air quality emissions modelling, data analysis systems, transport demand management and all aspects of associated policy formation and negotiation.

Dr Pat Frain (Director, NovaUCD) told UCD today: "The CCDP is NovaUCD's main enterprise support programme, designed specifically to assist entrepreneurs in developing start-up companies established predominantly to commercialise university research." He added: "New and innovative enterprises such as those which have completed this year's programme are critical for the sustained development and growth of Ireland's knowledge-based economy."

NovaUCD is currently seeking applications for the NovaUCD 2008 Campus Company Development Programme which commences in April. Further information is available via www.ucd.ie/nova

Professor Peter Clinch and Dr Andrew Kelly, co-founders of UCD spin-out AP EnvEcon, overall winner of the NovaUCD 2007 Entrepreneur Award



Discovering the fun side to science at the BT Young Scientist Exhibition

1,128 students from across Ireland competed in 500 projects in the BT Young Scientist exhibition in January. Thousands attended the event and UCD Science set up an interactive stand so that visitors could learn more about the mysteries of the universe.

Kicking off the UCD Science experiments was a dice challenge from the UCD School of Mathematical Sciences. Then researchers from the UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science brought along their new thermal imaging camera and visitors got to try out this new equipment which is used to study warm blooded animals and to monitor plants.

"I thoroughly enjoyed meeting so many keen young scientists at the UCD Science stand," explained Luke Mander, a first year PhD student



Primary school students from Rathdown Junior School, Dun Laoghaire explore the physics of electricity with a plasma globe

with the UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science. "I brought along some fossilised plants for students to examine. The fossils were 300-340 million years old, from the carboniferous period, which allowed people to see how the Earth might have looked before the time of the dinosaurs. I was extremely impressed by the students' energy, enthusiasm and knowledge of geological time."

Secondary school students queued to build DNA phone charms with Professor Geraldine Butler from the UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science while primary school students raced to build a DNA helix using K'Nex. Students generated electricity with physicists from the UCD School of Physics and were amazed to witness a magnet levitate. They also learned about tsunamis and earthquakes with geologists from the UCD School of Geological Sciences.

The competitive nature of the students got into full swing as they played a computer game called the Tower of Hanoi with postgraduates from the UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics, while chemists from the UCD School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology and Centre for Synthesis and Chemical Biology proved that they had the midas touch by turning copper coins gold!

On the last day David Knowles from the UCD Conway Institute, donned a replica Apollo astronaut suit and mingled with the crowd, challenging the students to participate in an on-the-spot science quiz.

Marybeth Doyle and Nicola O'Driscoll from St Mary's Secondary School, Mallow with the DNA phone charms they made at the UCD Science stand



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.

UCD Sports Scholars: 2007 - 2008

Athletics: Joanne Cuddihy (Kilkenny), Stephen Darcy (Carlow), Jamie Davis (Dublin), Katie Lyndon (Galway), Mairead Murphy (Waterford) and Pdraig 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 Fhailin (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 Cumiskey (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).

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



Students awarded World Heritage Fellowships

Three UNESCO-Vocations Patrimoine Fellowships and one Exceptional Fellowship were awarded to postgraduate students from the School of Biology & Environmental Science at a ceremony in the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in Paris earlier this month. The students won the fellowships for their project proposals to tackle management issues at threatened World Heritage Sites.

Gonzalo Banda-Cruz, from Ecuador, received the award for his proposal to evaluate the management capacities at the Galapagos Archipelago World Heritage Site. Giuseppe Ciabrone, from Italy, will develop an integrated plan for the World Heritage Site of Caserta. Rusudan Mizikashvili, from Georgia, aims to recommend improvements to the management of Georgia's World Heritage Sites. Sophie Eberhardt, from France, was awarded an exceptional fellowship by the French ministry of Culture and Communication, Vocations Patrimoine, AXA and Mazars to support the recent creation of a network of the French World Heritage Sites.

UCD is one of only two universities that have won UNESCO Fellowships for students that are studying World Heritage Management. The award of these fellowships is international recognition for the School's master's programme. To date this course has attracted students from Canada, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Libya, China, Australia, Jamaica, USA, Georgia, Denmark and Ireland.

The fellowships run for one or two years and are worth up to €25,000 per year. The master's in World Heritage Management at UCD is a two-year course. The first year is a taught programme that deals with practical issues at heritage sites and leads to a graduate diploma. The second year is spent carrying out a research project on a management issue either in Ireland or abroad. Project work has been carried out on topics ranging from sacred sites in Japan to management of mountain gorillas in Central Africa.



Pictured are (l-r): Giuseppe Ciabrone (UCD), Kinley Gyeltshen (BTU), Gonzalo Banda-Cruz (UCD), Emmanuelle Sand (AXA Group), Rusudan Mirzikashvili (UCD), Beatrice de Foucauld (Association Vocations Patrimoine), Muriel Bachelier (Mazars Group) and Sophie Eberhardt (UCD).

Canadian Ambassador attends conference on migrancy

The international interdisciplinary conference 'Migrancy at Work: Aesthetics, Ethics and Politics' took place in the Humanities Institute of Ireland in December. Organised by the members of the HII World Writing in French research strand (Professor Mary Gallagher, Dr Michael Brophy, Dr Emer O' Beirne and Dr Douglas Smith, French and Francophone Studies, School of Languages and Literatures) and supported beyond the HII by the Canadian and French embassies, the two-day conference attracted 21 speakers, exploring the question of migrancy in the areas of literature, art, film and photography, from Quebec and the Caribbean to France and the Maghreb.

The conference investigated how the displacement, deterritorialisation and dehistoricisation associated with migrancy now characterise humanity as it searches for new definitions of self and other, and negotiates what Édouard Glissant calls the difficult passage from Sameness to Diversity. While emphasising the links between migrancy and aesthetics, the conference also discussed the ethical and political dimension of the work of art as a locus of inter-subjective and inter-cultural relation.

Pictured are (l-r): Maria O'Reilly (Cultural & Academic Relations Officer, Canadian Embassy), Professor Mary Gallagher (French & Francophone Studies), Dr Marc Caball (Director, Humanities Institute of Ireland), the new Canadian Ambassador to Ireland, Patrick Binns and Dr Michael Brophy (French & Francophone Studies).



School of Medicine Introduces Graduate Entry Programme

The UCD School of Medicine & Medical Science recently announced the introduction of a Graduate Entry Medicine programme to commence in September 2008. This four-year programme leading to a MB BCH BAO honours degree is designed for individuals who already hold a primary degree in any discipline and who now wish to pursue a career in medicine. Graduate entry programmes represent an exciting new pathway to becoming a doctor and are part of an agreed set of landmark initiatives designed to transform medical education over the coming years.

Medicine at UCD has undergone considerable change in recent years with the modularisation of the undergraduate curriculum, the relocation of the UCD School of Medicine & Medical Science from Earlsfort Terrace to the Health Science Centre in Belfield and the appointment of new academic staff. Change continues at pace with new selection criteria being introduced for the undergraduate programme and a major increase in the number of places in medicine for both school leaver and graduates across all Irish medical schools.

These reforms will recognise a broader set of education and personal capacities among applicants and should significantly alleviate the intense 'points race' that has characterised the selection process to date. They will deliver key recommendations of the report of the Working Group on Undergraduate Medical Education and Training chaired by Professor Patrick Fottrell. When fully implemented the number of

undergraduate places available to Irish/EU students will have increased from 305 to 725. At UCD, undergraduate student numbers have increased by one third over the past ten years and the historical cap on Irish/EU student intake has recently been increased to 122.

The Fottrell Report also recommended the introduction of graduate entry programmes on a phased basis across Irish medical schools. Pilot programmes were introduced in September 2007 at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and at a new postgraduate medical school at the University of Limerick. Over the past two years, the UCD School of Medicine & Medical Science has been working with the other public medical schools (NUI Galway, TCD and UCC) to develop an innovative programme that draws on the extensive expertise in medical education, introduces new teaching approaches and which makes optimal use of shared specialist clinical training facilities.

Collaborating as the Irish Universities Medical Schools Consortium (NUI Galway, TCD, UCC and UCD), the expansion of undergraduate intake and the introduction of graduate entry programmes are being phased to avoid a sudden surge demand for clinical training places. This is particularly important in Dublin where three medical schools share access to clinical training in paediatrics, obstetrics & gynaecology and psychiatry. Hence the IUMC reform plan sees graduate entry being introduced at UCC and UCD this year, at NUI

Galway from September 2010 and the expansion of undergraduate places at TCD over five years.

The UCD Graduate Entry Medicine programme will employ a combination of innovative teaching strategies and assessment methods including traditional pedagogical and guided discovery teaching methods appropriate to mature, experienced learners. The programme will place greater emphasis on the use of small group sessions, enquiry based learning and patient centred approaches will form a substantial aspect of the programme. Earlier patient contact and small group teaching in a variety of clinical environments will ensure that our students learn the necessary skills under the tuition of highly qualified and experienced clinical tutors.

The UCD programme is open to graduates of any discipline who hold or who expect to hold by July 2008, a minimum second class honours, grade one (2.1) result in their first honours bachelor degree (NFQ level 8 or equivalent). Starting in September 2008, UCD and UCC will each offer 20 places to graduate entrants with intake numbers rising to 57 at UCD and 29 at UCC and a further 29 places coming on stream at NUI Galway by 2010.

Applications are now being accepted through the Central Applications Office under course code DN102. Full details of the application process are available on the CAO website (www.cao.ie).

Teaching classical civilisation through material culture

In 1910 Rev Henry Browne, Professor of Greek at UCD, a pioneer in Ireland of the teaching of classical civilisation through material culture, hosted a low-key opening of the 'Museum of Ancient History' in Earlsfort Terrace. In the decade that followed he succeeded in assembling a substantial teaching collection of Greek vases and other antiquities, including Greek and Roman coins and terracottas. It had been, he wrote, a "difficult task" achieved on a tiny budget and mainly through the generosity of major museums and excavating archaeologists.

In 1971 the collection was transferred to its present location at the Belfield campus. Room K216, a designated space in a wing of the School of Classics, was furnished with what was at the time a state-of-the-art museum display. After a period of decline following Browne's retirement in 1922, antiquities now found their place in elegant cases, and inscriptions and sculptures were mounted on walls and shelves. But for a couple of decades the museum,

renamed the Classical Museum, remained a hidden treasure of the Faculty of Arts. There was a certain mystique in the opening of its doors at regular intervals by committed members of the department for visitors and school parties to peer through its dusty showcases.

In the course of the 1990s, however, the museum regained its educational role. Today, classical archaeology courses use the collections for teaching the visual and material culture of the ancient world. The mounting of exhibitions, which so far relied on student volunteers, for the first time this year, is an MA module ('The Classical Exhibition Project') combining the theory of collecting, artefact interpretation and experience in communicating knowledge and ideas through displays.

The Classical Museum has other commitments too, research and outreach being the most important. Its publications include the first Irish volume of the international series Corpus

Vasorum Antiquorum, and its current project, supported by the Heritage Council, researches the history of the classical collections in Ireland. The museum's displays themselves attract diverse audiences, from school parties to cultural associations and enthusiastic amateurs of ancient art.

University museums in general are now witnessing a rebirth after their decline in the course of the 20th century, and the UCD Classical Museum is very much part of the movement. As a member of UMAC (International Committee for University Museums and Collections), founded by ICOM (the International Council of Museums), in the early 21st century the UCD Classical Museum is once again among the most active university museums as it was in the pioneering stages of the early 20th century.

Dr Christina Haywood is the Curator of the Classical Museum.



A view of the displays in the UCD Classical Museum



Greek vases from the collection of the Classical Museum, 5th century BC



Hellenistic stele, part of the Cockburn collection acquired by UCD in 1936



Athenian black-figured amphora, 6th Century BC



Pictured on the occasion of the visit of the Austrian Ambassador, an enthusiast of Greek vases are (l-r): Prof Michael Lloyd (UCD School of Classics), Lisa Schuhmeister (student), Dr Christina Haywood (UCD Classics Museum), Dr Walter Hagg (Ambassador), Mrs Aglaë Hagg-Thun and Dr Declan Downey (UCD School of History and Archives).

Launch of 'The Curragh of Kildare, Ireland'



The Curragh is perhaps the most important area of lowland grassland in Ireland in terms of its conservation value. It has a relatively modest number of plant species, but an exceptionally species-diverse and interesting fungal flora (mycoflora). It is a feature of the ecology of old grasslands - and especially commonage grassland, where no nutrients are added, so that as their fertility level falls and they become more acid, there is a decline in the number of species of herbs and grasses. But at the same time the soil is evolving to a more complex and biologically more diverse state. This is reflected most obviously in the richness of its waxcap flora - by far the richest in the whole of Ireland in the case of the Curragh. Because of its antiquity the Curragh grassland also has an extraordinarily wealth of earthworks of archaeological significance. But because it is also a sheep commonage, the Irish Army's training area and the headquarters of the Irish horse-racing industry the Curragh grassland is subjected to a range of pressures that threaten the survival of that rich environmental heritage.

For a number of years John Feehan (UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science) has been studying the natural and cultural heritage of the Curragh with a view to drawing up criteria for its sustainable management. This study bore fruit recently in the publication of the first book to present a general account of all the different facets of the Curragh's multi-faceted heritage: 'The Curragh of Kildare, Ireland' splendidly designed in-house by Bernard Kaye. The book was published by the School in association with the Department of Defence, and launched at the Defence Forces Training Centre in the Curragh in mid-November by the Minister for Defence, Willie O'Dea TD.

Pictured at the launch of 'The Curragh of Kildare, Ireland' are (l-r): Lt General Dermot Earley (Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces), Hugh Crawford (Property Management Branch, Department of Defence), Willie O'Dea TD (Minister for Defence), Dr John Feehan (UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science) and Brig General Dave Ashe (GOC, Curragh Camp).

Unravelling Secrets

A team of researchers led by Professor Paul Malthouse, principal investigator with the Centre for Synthesis and Chemical Biology and UCD Conway Institute, uses state of the art Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) equipment to study a range of biological processes. Insights gained could help in the design of drugs for an array of medical conditions. Long established as a powerful tool for determining the structure of small molecules, NMR spectroscopy is now unravelling the secrets of previously inaccessible biological macromolecules, thanks to recent advances in the field. Bigger and more powerful spectrometers with higher magnetic field strengths offer new insights into the reactions happening in our bodies.

Enzymes, like other proteins, were traditionally characterised in the solid state by X-ray crystallography. NMR has a significant advantage as biomolecules can now be studied in their natural environment in bodily fluids and even in cell membranes using solid state NMR.

Protein-digesting enzymes called proteases play a role in propagating the AIDS virus, in allowing cancers and parasites to move through tissues and in the production of the plaque protein which causes Alzheimer's disease. Inhibiting these enzymes is key to treating such diseases. Drugs are

designed to target enzymes by slotting into their active sites and shutting them down. Drug design seeks to optimise inhibitor binding, so we need to understand how the inhibitors interact with an enzyme. "We are synthesising protease inhibitors and using NMR to determine how they interact with specific proteases. By studying these interactions we hope to see ways of optimising an inhibitor's ability to inhibit the specific protease involved in a given disease," explains Professor Malthouse.

It is essential that the potent protease inhibitors designed will only target the protease involved in the disease and not those which are essential for our bodies. "We are currently starting to synthesise and characterise a range of inhibitors which we hope will provide important insights into the development of drugs to treat a range of medical conditions," continues Professor Malthouse.

A group including Professor Malthouse and Dr Chandralal Hewage, scientist at the NMR Centre in UCD Conway Institute, have exploited NMR technology to solve the 3D solution structure of the gastrointestinal polypeptide GIP. GIP is a hormone that stimulates the secretion of insulin after ingestion of food and has been linked to diabetes and obesity-related diseases. A 3D picture of the protein was built step by step using a range of NMR experiments and molecular modelling calculations. Two-dimensional NMR spectra revealed information about the connectivities of the atoms, allowing the identity of each amino acid residue to be determined. Dr Hewage explains the significance of these studies: "Understanding the structural requirements for the biological activity of GIP will help in the design of new drugs for diabetes and obesity related disorders."

The archaeology of the Irish diaspora

The history of migration from Ireland to Britain and Europe, North and South America and Australia is well-researched, and the contribution of the emigrants to their new places of residence is universally acknowledged. But there has been relatively little archaeological study of the emigrant communities themselves. However, the UCD School of Archaeology, in collaboration with the Departments of Anthropology in the universities of Notre Dame and Maryland, is pursuing a programme of research on nineteenth-century Irish settlers in North America, the end-product of which will be, it is hoped, the first ever synthesis of Irish cross-Atlantic diaspora archaeology. There are three particular projects currently underway, one based in Texas, directed by Professor Tadhg O'Keefe of UCD, one in South Bend, Indiana directed by Dr Deb Rotman of Notre Dame, and one in Baltimore directed by Dr Stephen Brighton, Maryland. There are short-term plans to collaborate with colleagues on other projects in places such as Butte, Montana, a famous mining settlement with a large Irish presence in the 1800s, and long-term ambitions to extend the research chronologically (back to the 1600s) and geographically (to South America).

The Texas project, which was launched with seed funding from UCD and now has a PhD student (Julie Richko) attached to it, is focused on the Irish communities of Refugio and San Patricio de Hibernica, both established c1830, as well as on the places in Ireland from which members of those communities emigrated. These two Texan settlements are relatively little known, but their history is fascinating. In brief, Texas was a contested Mexican territory in the early 1800s. Although America dropped its claim to own it in 1812, American citizens (a good number of them wanted by the law!) drifted continuously across the border and settled there illegally. The Mexican government's response was to devise a land-granting scheme which would attract new, specifically Roman Catholic, settlers to the region, thereby securing Mexican ownership of the province. The key figures in this operation were called empresarios (land speculators, in today's language). The empresarios were given responsibility for locating potential settlers and for allocating lands which they were to settle within strict time limits. Where targets were met, the empresarios were amply rewarded by the government for their efforts. Four of the many empresarios involved in this operation were Irish-born: James McGloin (from Sligo), John McMullen (from Donegal), James Power

(from Wexford) and James Hewetson (from Kilkenny). Several dozen Irish families, many of them from Wexford and Tipperary, ended up as Mexican citizens in southern Texas as part of this colonisation process.

The settlement at Refugio prospered, and today it is a busy small town. San Patricio, by contrast, had a less happy history. Although streets and house blocks were laid out, it was never fully occupied. It was so remote that relatively few of the Irish emigrants intending to live there even saw the place. Those who settled there around 1830 experienced nothing but difficulty: extreme heat and humidity, wildlife (this is rattlesnake country), Lipan Apaches, and violent revolutionary war! By 1840 San Patricio was a failed town, with little more than a church and a few houses. Today it is a vast, virtually uninhabited, archaeological site, but its few local residents are intensely proud of their Irish heritage.

The archaeologists involved in this particular diaspora research envisage all three of these North American projects having field schools attached to them over the next two years. The South Bend project had a field school in 2007, and places were reserved on it for students from UCD.



Professor Tadhg O'Keefe with Geraldine McGloin from Corpus Christi, Texas, whose late husband was descended from James McGloin of Castlegal, Co Sligo, one of the empresarios of Texas.



The old cemetery at San Patricio, Texas, in which most of the Irish settlers of c1830 are buried.



60 Degrees by
Kevin O'Dwyer,
located in the Lough
Boora Parklands,
Co Offaly



Embracing the sun on the N6 horizon, by Kevin O'Dwyer

Archaeology meets Art

Next June, a large gathering of international archaeologists will converge on Belfield between 29 June and 4 July 2008 for the 6th World Archaeology Congress (WAC 6) organised by Professor Gabriel Cooney (UCD School of Archaeology).

Archaeology, which is sometimes described as the discovery of history buried beneath our feet, is a remarkable discipline. It spans the physical and human sciences to literally unearth our past.

The breadth and scale of the 6th World Archaeological Congress is not surprising, with over 200 sessions spanning ethical issues such as the involvement of archaeologists in sovereign conflicts such as Iraq, to the translation of the role of women in the past according to the norms of the present.

To coincide with WAC 6, a visual art exhibition curated by Dr Ian Russell will take place in Belfield - Abhar agus Meon: Material and Mentalities. This exhibition will explore issues of materials and techniques by both Irish and international artists.

To mark this major conference, UCD held an international competition for artists to participate in WAC 6 and to produce a sculpture for the Belfield campus based on this interaction.

The artist who has been selected is Offaly-based Kevin J O'Dwyer. O'Dwyer has studied in Waterford Institute of Technology, School of Art Institute, Chicago and the University of Georgia. In 2007 he graduated with an MA in Cultural Policy and Arts Management from UCD and is currently director of the Sculpture in the Parklands, Lough Boora Parklands, Co Offaly.

His work can be seen in the heart of the boglands, where he uses natural and manufactured materials to reflect man's impact on the natural landscape. His challenge for WAC 6 is to interact with the delegates as well as the topics that are discussed and to produce a piece that will commemorate this unique event for the university.

Servier Educational Grant-in-Aid awarded for symposium on Alzheimer's disease

Professors Ciaran Regan and Dominic Walsh, at the UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Sciences and based in UCD Conway Institute, have been awarded a Servier Unrestricted Educational Grant in support of an international conference on the biology of Alzheimer's disease. The symposium entitled 'Synapse recycling, memory impairment and Alzheimer's disease', organised by Ciaran Regan and chaired by Dominic Walsh, was selected by the programme committee for inclusion in the sixth Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) Forum to be convened in Geneva in July 2008.

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is a major personal and societal tragedy. The disease progression is tortuously long and debilitating, extorting a huge emotional and economic cost. The onset of the disease is insidious with the earliest symptoms often manifested as subtle and intermittent deficits of recall memory. There is a growing appreciation that AD memory deficits may result from loss of synapses that form connections between neurons. The focus of the symposium is on cutting-edge research aimed

at understanding how this process is mediated by aggregation of small fragments of a protein termed amyloid precursor protein and not the amyloid plaques diagnostic of the disease pathology. Although the mechanism of synapse loss is not known current evidence suggests that alterations in certain neurotransmitter receptor distribution may be involved. The goal of this symposium is to cover disparate approaches involving studies of amyloid fragment aggregation, measures of synapse form and function and tests of learning and memory to better understand the molecular cascade that leads to AD.

Speakers in the symposium include Professor Karen Hsiao Ashe, Department of Neurology in the Medical School at the University of Minnesota; Professor Yuri Geinisman, Department of Cell and Molecular Biology, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University, Chicago; Professor Dennis J Selkoe, Center for Neurologic Diseases, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard University School of Medicine; and Professor Ciaran Regan, School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Sciences, UCD.



Dr. Dominic Walsh (UCD), Professor Ciaran Regan (UCD), Alan Byrne, Neuroscience Manager, Servier (Ireland) and Kieran Leahy, Group Marketing Manager, Servier (Ireland).

Enterprise Ireland Commercialisation Award

Professor Ciaran Regan has won the inaugural Enterprise Ireland Lifescience and Food Commercialisation Award. The Minister for Innovation and Policy, Michael Ahern TD presented the award at the Enterprise Ireland 'Next Wave Technology Showcase' held in UCD last December.

Professor Regan, who was also the winner of the NovaUCD 2007 Innovation Award, is Professor of Neuropharmacology at UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science, and co-ordinator of the Applied Neurotherapeutics Research Group and is a named inventor on six UCD patents.

In 2004, he co-founded a successful UCD spin-out company called Berand Neuropharmacology. Berand is a pre-clinical drug research company which also applies its technical platforms and expertise to in-house drug discovery programs directed to developing neurotherapeutic strategies for the treatment of brain illness. Berand is located in NovaUCD with research facilities based in the UCD Conway Institute. His outstanding achievements also include securing €10 million in funding from Wyeth Discovery and Science Foundation Ireland to establish the Applied Neurotherapeutics Research

Group at UCD. The group, which aims to identify novel neurotherapeutic targets, has already generated eight invention disclosures. This link was of critical importance in Wyeth's later decision to establish a €13 million bio-therapeutic drug discovery research facility at UCD.

"Professor Regan is to be congratulated on this success. He is a pioneer and a visionary in the field of commercialisation in Ireland and he continues to give his time, his energy and his expertise to further the goal of Ireland becoming a leading knowledge economy," said Minister Ahern presenting the award. "He is an excellent role model and an inspiration for researchers all over Ireland who wish to see their intellectual property being developed for the benefit of the economy and society."

The aim of the Enterprise Ireland award is to accelerate the commercialisation of research by stimulating and facilitating interaction between industry and the research infrastructure. Key actions in this regard include helping companies and researchers bring new technologies to market, involving industry in leading the research agenda, strengthening the technology transfer function in universities and building applied research strengths in the institutes of technology.

sport



Cycling success for Louise

UCD student, Olympic hopeful and star cyclist, Louise Moriarty, is enjoying enormous success in her cycling career. The UCD Cycling Club's 'Rider of the Year' recently claimed yet another victory in her quest for Beijing qualification.

Buoyed by her win in Melbourne where she won the Points race, beating the second-placed rider Tess Downing by two points, she contested a highly competitive Points race, which was part of the Devonport Carnival 2-day race series in Tasmania in December. Of the five sprints in the race, each had a different winner which only highlighted the quality of the women's field.

Louise's latest success brings 2007 to a fitting close. The Sports Scholarship student began her UCD cycling career with a bang by recording a time of 3 minutes 56 seconds for the 3km pursuit at the Manchester Track World Cup meet in February. In doing so, she became the

first Irish lady cyclist to beat the four minute barrier, thus smashing the Irish record.

A month later, she competed at the Road Intervarsities, winning both the Individual Time Trial and Road Race. She captained UCD to overall team success.

Louise won the ladies section of the Gorey 3-day, The Corkman 3-day and Rás Dún na nGall stage races. She took the gold medal at the National Time Trial Championships and a bronze medal in the Road Race Championships the following day.

She represented Ireland at the European Track Championships in Germany, where she finished 16th in the points race. Soon afterwards, she competed in the 5-day Tour de Bretagne in France, finishing 4th, 9th and 11th on stages and finished 8th overall.

We wish Louise every success in her quest for Olympic qualification.

Volleyball Club celebrates another Irish intervarsity double

In November 2003, the UCD men and women left the University of Ulster Jordanstown (UUJ) Sports Centre in Newtownabbey, Belfast with both Intersvarsity Cup titles. Four years on they repeated that same extraordinary feat and earned the right to represent Irish Students' Volleyball in the English Volleyball Association Students Cup 2008 in Leeds University in February.

The opening day of the event was highlighted by the meeting of the UCD and UCC women's teams in their opening pool. With the final score at 1-1, the points difference favoured UCD and placed them first in the pool and into a cup group containing UUC (Coleraine) and Queen's, while UCC joined UUJ.

On the second day of competition, the UCD men continued to show their fine form by

beating RCSI and then champions UUJ in a fiery encounter that saw the Dublin side come from a set down to win 2-1 and go top of the table.

So to the finals, both to be contested between UCD and UUJ. In the women's final, the favourites and defending champions of the six previous women's cup titles, UCD, started the stronger as they met the challenge of the hosts and surprise outfit from UUJ, winning the first set 25-13. Indeed their opening set form could have seen them romp through the match, however the second set saw a revived UUJ team fight back to lead 13-8. UCD then turned the set on its head as they scored 12 points without reply. They claimed the third set 25-19 and their seventh Irish Volleyball Intersvarsities title in a row - a simply incredible achievement and sequence of honours that seems almost impossible to halt at present.

Yet this year's Intersvarsities event was to end stunningly. Having produced fireworks in their group game the previous day, nothing short of that was expected in the men's showdown, and the large crowd that watched witnessed yet another men's Intersvarsity Cup Final thriller. Having seen their female counterparts emerge victorious, the hunger levels were high, and that would prove vital for them going in as underdogs to the final against the hosts and defending champions. It was the men of Jordanstown who would scoop the first set on a tight score line of 27-25. The scoreline was reversed in the second set in similar fashion as UCD fought back tooth and nail to stay in the game.

UUJ broke the ice in the third set 25-18, however UCD again fought back with a powering display in the fourth to win 25-12.

Like last year's final between UUJ and UL, a tie-break set would determine whether the title would be defended or go to a new home. UCD narrowly led at the change-around, with no more than three points separating the sides at any stage in the final set. Lady-luck may then have swung towards UCD in an instant when a shoot volleyed free ball clipped the net and dropped despairingly short of Jordanstown's spike line, despite the desperate efforts of the Jordanstown defence to pick it up. Bringing the game to match point, it proved to be one of the key moments of the tournament; it was to boost UCD's confidence at the most critical time of their Intersvarsities as they powered on to win the match at the net, sparking ecstatic celebrations on court with the likewise triumphant and vocal UCD women's team.

UCD team captains Noemi Kuncik and Matteo Sbrolla accepted the Intersvarsity Cups on behalf of their victorious teams, while MVP awards were also handed out to UCD students Aileen Minihan (best female setter) and Noemi Kuncik (best female hitter).

UCD - Women's Intersvarsity Cup Champions 2007/08

Claire Revert, Miriam Nolan, Noemi Kuncik (Capt. and Coach), Leanne Dignam (Vice-Capt.), Mary-Louise Coleman and Aileen Minihan, Claire Walsh, Cara Davies and Lyndsey Condell.

UCD - Men's Intersvarsity Cup Champions 2007/08

Gianmaria Marcellini (Coach), Miguel Maglo, Thomas Holz, Trevor Westmoreland, John Daly, Lukas Folkman, Herbert Ip, Matteo Sbrolla (Capt.) and Luigi Crucini.





Mumming - new focus on an old tradition

The age-old tradition of mumming, a fusion of folk drama, storytelling and song, is documented in 'Border-Crossing', published in November 2007. 'Border Crossing' examines the phenomenon of mumming, a tradition which has retained popularity in certain areas of the country: Ulster, the border region, Wexford, and North County Dublin. While Irish mumming has engaged the attention of several writers in 'Border Crossing', the setting is broader than Ireland itself and accordingly, the volume contains much about mumming in parts of England, Scotland and northern Europe.

"This is of particular interest to folklorists and social historians", says Críostóir Mac Cárthaigh (UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics). He attributes the changes in the nature and structure of mumming to "rural depopulation and the spread of urban culture. This dramatic practice, among others, has reflected changes in the social landscape of Ireland, and its role in Irish society has changed and evolved since its inception."

It is thought mumming provided an important opportunity for positive social interaction and community engagement; in Ireland, mummers were believed to bring luck to the homes they visited, and their hosts, in turn, rewarded them for their efforts most frequently in the form of

small monetary contributions. Today, the performances tend to be held in local halls or pubs.

For centuries, mumming has formed an essential part of the celebration of seasonal festivals, particularly around the Christmas period. Masked individuals visited private homes, giving performances of music, song and dance and sometimes enacting a rudimentary play as part of the proceedings. Mumming is often characterised by behaviour which is inverse to social norms; disguise is a vital element in activities of this sort, enabling participants to transgress accepted social boundaries. There is an element of the grotesque in the distorted voices and bizarre masks the performers wear.

According to Professor Séamas Ó Catháin (UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics): "Mummers are no shrinking violets. Their wild appearance and rumbustious behaviour made a powerful impact as they literally exploded into country kitchens."

Border Crossings was edited by Anthony D Buckley from the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, Críostóir Mac Cárthaigh and Professor Séamas Ó Catháin from UCD and Séamas Mac Mathúna, University of Ulster. The book, published by Dundalgan press, contains research from a wide body of folklorists who chronicle the past and present of the mumming tradition.

Cleamaireacht- Súil nua ar sheanthraidisiún

Déantar taifeadadh ar chleamaireacht i leabhar nua 'Border Crossing' foilsithe i mí na Samhna 2007. Is éard is cleamaireacht ann ná meascán de dhrama tíre, scéalaíocht agus amhránaíocht. Déanann 'Border Crossing' iniúchadh ar fheiniméan na cleamaireachta. Maireann traidisiún na cleamaireachta in áiteanna áirithe sa tír: Cúige Uladh, ceantar na teorann, Loch Garman, agus Tuaisceart Chontae Átha Cliath. Cé go ndíríonn 'Border Crossing' ar chleamaireacht na hÉireann, tá réim níos leithne ná Éire i gceist agus dá réir sin, tá neart san imleabhar faoi chleamaireacht in áiteanna i Sasana, in Albain, agus i dTuaisceart na hEorpa.

"Tá sé seo rí-spéisiúil do bhéaloideasóirí agus staraithe sóisialta" arsa Críostóir Mac Cárthaigh (Scoil na Gaeilge, An Léinn Cheiltigh, Bhéaloideas Éireann agus na Teangeolaíochta UCD). Cuireann sé na hathruithe ar structúir agus ar chruth na cleamaireachta i leith 'bhánú na tuaithe agus scaipeadh an chultúir uirbigh. Taispeánann an cleachtadh drámatúil seo na hathruithe i dtírdhreach sóisialta na hÉireann, agus tá ról na cleamaireachta i sochaí na hÉireann athraithe agus fabhráithe óna bhunú."

Ceaptar gur thug cleamaireacht deis thábhachtach do chaidreamh dearfach sóisialta agus rannpháirtíocht pobal; in Éirinn creideadh gur thug na cleamaí an t-ádh leo go dtí na tithe ar thug siad cuairt orthu. Thug na hóstaigh fochraig do na hiarrachtaí, don chuid is mó ar airgead beag. Sa lá atá inniu ann, de ghnáth,

bíonn na cur i ngníomh i hallaí áitiúla nó tithe tabhairne.

Leis na céadta anuas, tá ról lárnach ag an gcleamaireacht i gceiliúradh féilte, go háirithe um Nollaig. Thug daoine masctha cuairteanna ar thithe, ag tabhairt aithrise de cheol agus rince. Corruair déantar aithris ar dhrama buntúsach mar chuid de na himeachtaí. Aithnítear cleamaireacht trí iompar nach n-oireann do gnáthiompar sóisialta; is gné riachtanach in imeachtaí den tsórt iad na mascanna, tugann sé seo deis do rannpháirtithe gnáthiompar sóisialta a shéanadh. Tá gné den anchúiseach sna guthanna curtha as riocht agus mascanna aisteacha a chaitheann na haithriseoirí.

De réir An tOllamh Séamas Ó Catháin (Scoil na Gaeilge, An Léinn Cheiltigh, Bhéaloideas Éireann agus na Teangeolaíochta UCD) "Ní naoimh gan smál iad na haithriseoirí seo. Théadh a gcuma fhiáin agus a n-iompar scléipeach go mór i bhfeidhm ar a mbíodh i láthair sna cistiní tuaithe."

Rinne Anthony D Buckley ó Mhuséam Daonchultúr agus Iompair Uladh, Críostóir Mac Cárthaigh agus an tOllamh Séamas Ó Catháin ó UCD agus Séamas Mac Mathúna, Ollscoil Ulaidh, eagarthóireacht ar an leabhar. Sa leabhar, a d'fhoilsigh Dundalgan Press, tá taighde ó neart béaloideasóirí a dhéanann taifeadadh ar stair na cleamaireachta agus traidisiúin na cleamaireachta sa lá atá inniu ann.

Scannal nominated for an IFTA



Scannal, a bilingual documentary series directed by Pat Butler, journalist-in-residence in the UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics has been nominated for an Irish Film and Television Award (IFTA) for Best Documentary Series.

Pat was appointed as journalist-in-residence last year as part of a new Irish language Communications Master's programme in the School, MA i Scríobh agus Cumarsáid na Gaeilge. Pat is a senior journalist with RTÉ and reports in both English and Irish.

The documentary series charts controversial episodes in Irish life encompassing politics, social concerns, religion, entertainment and sport. Scannal attracts an audience of between

200,000 and 300,000 weekly on RTÉ 1. Memorable programmes include the story of the sexual abuse of young swimmers by a high-profile coach and a description of the violent scenes that escalated from the Ireland versus England soccer match held in Lansdowne Road in 1995.

Never one to shy from controversy, Pat was at the helm of the critically acclaimed documentary 'Ballyseedy', which brought to light an incident in the Irish Civil War in County Kerry. Pat was awarded television journalist of the year in 1998 for this production. There are four other documentary series nominated in this category, including two other Irish language documentaries.

When asked about Scannal's nomination for best documentary series Pat said:

"The Scannal team are delighted to receive recognition from the academy of The Irish Film and Television Awards this year, especially as it was voted for by our peers throughout the country. This also illustrates that Irish language media is at the forefront of cutting-edge journalism and that Irish language documentaries are of a standard that is hard to beat."

This year's IFTAs are the fifth annual awards, which recognise and celebrate Irish television and film.

About UCD today — UCD today is the campus magazine of University College Dublin. It profiles and celebrates the tremendous variety of activities on the UCD campus. It provides information on issues that affect staff, students and stakeholders and is a forum to showcase the work of UCD people throughout the university.

Published five times annually by the UCD Communications Office, UCD today also includes major feature interviews by well known Irish journalists.

UCD today keeps the UCD community up-to-date with campus, people, news and activities and showcases UCD's excellence in teaching, learning and research.