A Snapshot of UCD in the 1970s

Recently we asked you to paint a picture of UCD in your time. And you did. Through the memories you and thousands of your peers have shared with us, you have made it possible for us to understand what UCD means to you and to capture a snapshot of UCD in the 1970s.

Some of you told us about your favourite lecturer or society or the issues of the day that inspired you to take to the streets in protest. Others told us about late nights spent studying and falling in love on campus.

We thank you for sharing each and every one of your precious memories with us.

So now it’s time to take a look at your masterpiece, your UCD....

Engaging in a heated debate, solving the world’s problems and falling in love with your fellow students were all high on the agenda in the 1970s. 20% of you attended a L&H debate, 18% of you remember solving the world’s problems over drinks in the bar and a romantic 15% of you fell in love with a fellow student!

You Participated!

When it came to the best society there was a clear winner. The L&H society was deemed the best society by an impressive 50% of you.

You Protested!

You also told us about your activism and the causes that took you beyond UCD and onto the streets of the capital to make your voices heard. 29% of you took part in protests, marches and demonstrations during your time in UCD.

“The Students' Union march from the Belfield campus to the British Embassy in Merrion Square after the Bloody Sunday massacre in January 1972 is something I still remember...”

Graduate, 1974
You learned from the best!

When we asked you about your favourite professor or lecturer there was one name that just kept coming up. Professor John Teeling won the hearts and minds of so many of you during your time in UCD.

“Though I wasn't registered for John Teeling's lectures I used to go to them all. He was a most interesting and inspiring lecturer and I loved his 'real world' examples of business stories.” Conall O Morain, Graduate 1979

You got together then...

It wasn’t all work and no play though.

We asked you to tell us about the best Gig, Ball or Ents event you went to in UCD. The 70s in UCD saw some of Ireland's most talented musicians performing on campus. Amongst some of the highlights mentioned by you and your peers were performances by The Boomtown Rats, Planxty and Horslips, who all performed on campus in the 1970s.

The early comedic performances of the late Dermot Morgan were also recalled fondly by many. Or maybe you were amongst those who were dancing the night away at the Olympic Ballroom at the Ag Dance on a Wednesday night?

You’re still getting together now...

With such amazing memories of the people and events who shaped your time in UCD, it came as little surprise that 51% of you have attended a college reunion of some sort. After taking this lovely trip down memory lane, no doubt you are already planning your next.
You made memories and friendships which have lasted a lifetime...

Your fondest memories were many and varied, recalling great sporting moments and historic events but your most treasured memories involved the lifelong friendships that you made and the people that changed your life in UCD.

“Meeting my future wife over a Bunsen Burner in Biochemistry lab in first med. I can still visualize the moment.”
Kevin Mullen, Graduate, 1976

“Meeting my future husband and other great friends with whom I’m still in contact.”
Elizabeth Mary Keane, Graduate, 1976

“Good friends, student life, getting through exams, riding pillion on another's motorbike, walking together through Stephen's Green to eat lunch in Bewley's between lectures.”
Mary Cosgrove Sjaastad, Graduate 1970

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