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Beyond Classical Nanoscience

Featured in this issue:

- *UCD Complex and Adaptive Systems Laboratories (CASL)*
- *Investing in Childhood*
- *UCD Community Musical*

what's inside



3

Beyond Classical Nanoscience

Recent Cozarelli prizewinner Professor Kenneth Dawson speaks to Claire O'Connell (BSc 1992, PhD1998) about exciting developments in Bionanointeractions. By getting nanoparticles inside living cells, the team at the NanoBio Institute hopes to enable new ways of delivering therapeutic drugs to currently hard-to-reach parts of the human body, and thereby challenge conditions like cancer, viral infections and neurodegenerative diseases.



7

Investing in Childhood

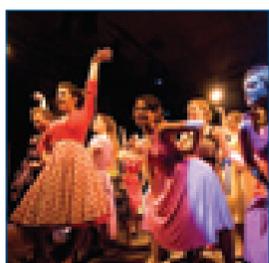
Major investment into early childhood development is currently taking place in Ireland. Dr Orla Doyle speaks to Danielle Barron (BSc2005) about a groundbreaking new programme in UCD, which is using a multidisciplinary team to evaluate the full socio-economic benefits of this type of investment. The major new early childhood initiative has recently been launched in Ireland. This programme will see many new intervention programmes taking place all over the country.



11

The Sum of Knowledge

At the UCD Complex and Adaptive Systems Laboratories (CASL) a geologist and a biologist may breach frontiers of science over a cup of coffee. The idea may sound simple; take scientists of different disciplines and put them in one building but already the results and the promise of this project are exhilarating. Dr Scott Rickard, Director of CASL speaks to Louise Holden about this unique and exciting collaborative research laboratory at UCD.



15

UCD Community Musical

This was the first production of its kind and was performed to four sold out audiences at O'Reilly Hall. The entire cast and production team was made up of talented volunteers from across the campus community of students and staff. The Musical allowed students and staff alike to reveal their musical and theatrical talents.

Cover Image: Nanoparticles, artwork

Nanotechnology involves designing systems on scales from the microscopic downwards. These nanoparticles have been built at a scale small enough to interact with individual molecules. These molecules are seen embedded in the multi-faceted polygonal surfaces of the nanoparticles. Nanoparticles like this could be used to deliver targeted drug treatments to particular areas of the body. MEDI-MATION/SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY

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UCD tops the CAO first preferences with a gain of 5.2%

The 5.2% increase in CAO first preferences is worth putting in context as we take stock of this measure of performance in terms of demand for our degrees. Overall the number of applicants for level 8 degrees coming through the CAO process increased by 2% this year. However, against this growing demand for level 8 degrees there was also a noticeable decline in first preferences for levels 6 & 7 in the institutes of technology. We will have to see how these applications translate into eligible candidates when the Leaving Certificate results come out in August.

The UCD performance is extremely robust in a number of key areas. Undenominated Arts (DN012) has been very steady over the past number of years while we have witnessed some fluctuations in the denominated BA degrees. Social Science (BSocSc DN007) was the big winner this year reflecting the major effort to provide structured pathways for students. Psychology (DN054) continues to attract large numbers and the BA in Computer Science (DN050) remains popular among students who do not have the science subject requirement for the BSc in Computer Science.

Although still not back to the level of 2001, the BSc in Computing Science (DN030) also remains steady and viewed alongside Electronic Engineering (DN073), which showed an increase of 14% on 2007, is an encouragement for the ICT sector.

Overall, Science performed extremely well with first preferences up almost 25% and undenominated Science (DN008) up over 30%. Again, explaining the pathways played a significant role in convincing students to choose this area.

Agriculture and Food Science showed a growth of 58.8% - and while the scale of this increase is due to the introduction of Human Nutrition (DN090), first preferences in other areas of Agriculture and Food Science, excluding Human Nutrition increased by 12%. Veterinary Medicine (DN005) regained ground lost over the past couple of years and the graduate entry route (DN105) attracted the highest ever number - indicating a growing awareness of graduate entry in general.

There was a decline in first preferences in a number of the health professions reflecting a national trend. Physiotherapy (DN006) continues to suffer from the impact of the jobs market while Radiography (DN004) is at its highest level in a decade. The two large nursing degrees - General Nursing (DN110) and Children's Nursing (DN116), were up on 2007 by 11.5% and 8.5% respectively.

The Business degrees were up 2.5% reflecting the strong recovery in the B.Comm (International) degrees. Business and Legal Studies (DN021) also performed well but, overall, Law degrees fell by 7%.

Engineering also had problems with the increase in first preferences for Mechanical Engineering unable to counterbalance a fall in Civil Engineering. Undenominated Engineering (DN077) fell by 2.5% but this is still above 2005 levels.

Between now and July there is generally a little movement in CAO applications as students gauge their exam performance against their preferred options but, by and large the choices have been made.

For the future, despite the expansion of numbers applying through the CAO, we can expect more competition between the higher education institutes as the number of degree programmes continues to grow. This year's performance bodes well for keeping UCD on top.

Eilis O'Brien
Director of Communications

See "How does a degree increase its first preferences by 115%?" article on page 8.

Beyond Classical Nanoscience

Cozzarelli prize winner Professor Kenneth Dawson speaks to Claire O'Connell (BSc 1992, PhD 1998) about new developments in Bionanointeractions.

There can be little as exciting in science as exploring a brand new area of research. And that's exactly where a group of UCD scientists find themselves, looking at how tiny nanoparticles, only a hundred millionths of millimetres in size, interact with living material.

By figuring out how to get nanoparticles inside living cells, the team at the NanoBio Institute hope to enable new ways of delivering therapeutic drugs to currently hard-to-reach parts of the human body, and thereby challenge conditions like cancer, viral infections and neurodegenerative diseases.

They can also immediately support efforts to ensure that nanotechnology is implemented safely throughout the world, says Professor Kenneth Dawson, who directs NanoBio at UCD.

Professor Dawson also leads the BioNanoInteract Strategic Research Cluster, which integrates scientists from UCD, TCD, UCC, UL, NUIM, DIT, and UU and industry partners such as Intel, Biotrin, ThermoFisher, DePuy, Deerac Fluidics, Cellix and Glantreo.

With funding of €7.2 million from Science Foundation Ireland, the cluster is now examining the complex questions of how nanoscale materials interact with living materials, like cells in the body.

The route to pioneering studies in "bionanointeractions" has taken Professor Dawson around the world and into scientific disciplines beyond his initial specialism of physical chemistry.

Born in Antrim, he studied chemistry and mathematics at Queen's University Belfast, but even then he was keen to widen his scope and took an active interest in philosophy and politics.

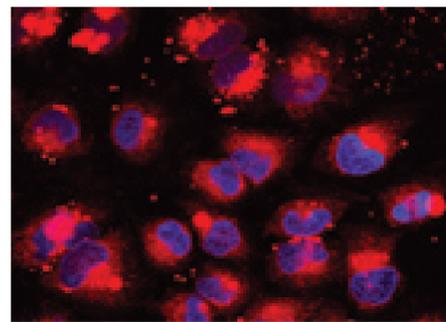
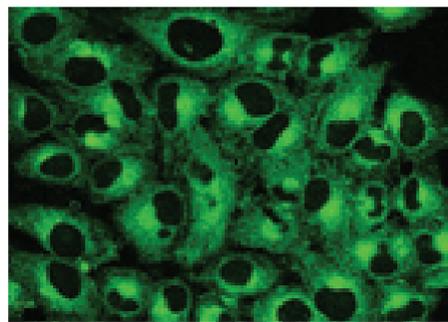
While completing his D.Phil. at Oxford University on the structures that hold molecules together, he was elected a Weir fellow and rubbed shoulders with great minds from other disciplines such as philosophy and history.

"It was a really interesting environment, Oxford, because I was still able to pursue those other interests," he recalls. "And it was a real eye-opener to see the similarity between scientific and non-scientific minds. If you meet someone who is truly brilliant then there's very little difference between scientists and non-scientists."

After Oxford he moved to the United States and worked in the stimulating environments of Cornell and UC Berkeley, developing an interest in the emerging field of complex matter and how objects assemble.

"We looked at 'complex things' like liquid crystals for watches, drug delivery systems, and tried to find some sort of simplicity in those things, to capture rules, capture understanding," he explains.

When President Mary Robinson visited Berkeley, the university asked Professor Dawson to accompany her around campus, and they got talking about home. "I had been out of touch for a while with what was happening in Ireland," he recalls. "Her view at the time was about the candle in the window and homecomers, and I was really taken with it. I thought I could do more now in Ireland than in the Ireland I grew up in. And of course she was right."



A confocal microscope image of cells exposed to polystyrene nanoparticles. The green colour in image 1 and the red colour in image 2 are the nuclei of the cells stained with a dye that colours only the nucleus. The nanoparticles are not visible directly due to their size, they are only 40 nanometres in size. However by inserting a special fluorescent dye inside the nanoparticles, you can see the light they emit. In this image you can see the combined fluorescence of many millions of nanoparticles inside the cell. (1 nanometre is a millionth of a millimetre)

Further prompting by UCD's then president Dr Paddy Masterson convinced Professor Dawson to apply for the chair of physical chemistry and he took up the post in Belfield in 1992.

By then Professor Dawson was interested in how complex matter interacts with living material, and he worked on getting colloids, or suspensions of small particles with DNA inside them, inside cells. "I was beginning to ask the questions why do they go in or not go in," he says. "We learned to set the standards of physical science for biological research to far beyond what was then felt necessary, and we also learned to work well across into the world of biology."

But in practice, the experiments were frustratingly inconclusive, and Professor Dawson describes it as a depressing time. "We had a really good team, it's just that people viewed it very naively, and we made a lot of mistakes. If there's one thing I would emphasise from that period of life it's how many things we tried and how many failed. While we had a very enlightened EU programme manager who considered the work to be pioneering, I worried about the lack of practical progress."

But Professor Dawson now realises the apparent failures of that dark time taught him much along the way. As well as forging links with leading scientists around the world, his experiments with colloids fostered a deeper understanding of how cells interact with small particles.

So when people began to tout nanoparticles as a route to deliver drugs to cells, he realised he had long been asking some of the same questions. "It became clear that nanoscience was going to be the enabler," he says, explaining that at the nanoscale, the properties of materials can alter quite dramatically: "At that level everything changes and the surfaces of the particle become quite different from flat surfaces."

And now as medical research tries to harness nanoparticles to deliver therapeutic drugs into previously inaccessible parts of cells, Professor Dawson is in a position to take a wide-angle view beyond classical nanoscience. In particular, he is interested in looking at what happens to nanoparticles in real-life environments as they enter the body and are surrounded by thousands of proteins.

One of the main hypotheses his team is investigating is that when it is inside the body a nanoparticle does not remain bare, instead it draws onto itself a coating or "corona" of different proteins. It is this outer cloak that interacts with the cell, he argues, and understanding the dynamics of this outer

coating is key to encouraging the cell to internalise and interact with the nanoparticle.

This is a big departure from how chemists and physicists who are interested in information-technology applications look at nanoscience, and it involves working in much more complex situations, explains Professor Dawson.

And it's not just theory. To demonstrate, he plays a video on his laptop of nanoparticles that his team successfully targeted right into the nucleolus, at the heart of a cell. After the disappointments of previous years, he describes seeing that result as a "canonical moment".

"This is so exciting because it makes contact with what I have been trying to do for years, to find the fundamental principles that govern what is happening in very complex systems that will have relevance in everyday life," says Professor Dawson.

He's not alone in that sentiment. So profound is their contribution to the field that the prestigious National Academy of Sciences in the US awarded Professor Dawson's UCD team and their collaborators in Sweden the 2007 Cozzarelli Prize in physical sciences for a paper on understanding the nanoparticle-protein corona.

The researchers are continuing to work out how a particle's size and environment affect the corona, and how the corona changes over time. Understanding these behaviours could have a revolutionary effect on how we treat disease, according to Professor Dawson, allowing drugs to be targeted through engineered nanoparticles into parts of the body that were previously out of bounds.

"This is a sort of turning point," he says. "These are the processes the cells use. We are just getting in by harnessing them because that's how cells work and nature deals with things in the body. We are just learning how to create our things as part of the body's system and we are probing how it all works. This will have a lasting effect on nanomedicine."

Claire O'Connell (BSc 1992, PhD 1998) is a freelance journalist.

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Professor Kenneth Dawson



Advances in the war against cancer cells

Dr Matthias Tacke and his research team at CSCB and the UCD School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology have recently published highly significant preclinical results on the anti-tumour activity of Titanocene Y on human breast tumours in a mouse model.

Titanocenes are a novel series of promising anti-tumour agents. In the research team's recent studies, a decrease not only in tumour growth, but also a reduction in tumour volume, was observed for the first time. Titanocene Y caused a reduction in breast cancer tumours by around one-third of their volume.



In the human breast cancer, Titanocene Y showed cell death induction comparable to the widely used chemotherapy drug Cisplatin. It has also been successfully applied to kidney cancer, which is unresponsive to most chemotherapy. Finding a chemotherapy drug against this form of cancer has proved difficult because of the kidney's attempts to filter out the drugs sent in to kill the cancer. Some drugs may also trigger unwanted inflammation of the organ or even organ death. Dr Tacke and his team have designed metal-based compounds called titanocene dichlorides.

"Our compounds have gone through four rounds of optimisation and we can now shrink tumours in mice," said Tacke. "The good news is the toxicity seems to be limited in the healthy cells so it's not too toxic to the rest of the body. We see a very good effect on breast tumours as well. The tumours have been shrinking"

The researchers are also working on drugs designed to treat a range of other cancers including prostate, ovarian and cervical cancer. "We have developed compounds but they are not as far advanced as the one we have tested in the breast or kidney cancer models" says Dr Tacke. He hopes clinical trials with Titanocene Y on humans, the next stage of the testing process, could happen in three to five years.

Dr Matthias Tacke

Veterinary Medicine granted AVMA accreditation



UCD Veterinary Medicine has been granted full accreditation by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). "This is an outstanding achievement reflecting years of strategic planning, the vision of previous Deans and the huge effort put in by all our staff in the years, months and weeks prior to the full accreditation visit by the AVMA," says Professor Grace Mulcahy, Dean of Veterinary Medicine at UCD.

The AVMA educational standards of excellence are recognised worldwide as the "gold standard" in veterinary education. With this announcement, UCD joins only a handful of others outside of the United States with AVMA accreditation for their Veterinary programme. Graduates from the UCD programme will now be able to receive a license to practice veterinary medicine in the US or Canada without having to complete a special 'foreign graduates' exam.

"This is particularly important for our students and graduates who are now regarded on a par with US graduates for licensing purposes. It also means that University College Dublin becomes immediately more attractive to North American students wishing to study veterinary medicine," she explains.

UCD provides the only programme allowing graduates to practice veterinary medicine, on the island of Ireland. The programme is accredited by the Veterinary Council of Ireland, and the European Association of Establishments of Veterinary Education, in addition to AVMA.

Established in 1863, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) is a not-for-profit association representing more than 76,000 veterinarians working in private and corporate practice, government, industry, academia, and uniformed services in the US. The AVMA acts as a collective voice for its membership and for the profession.

The objective of the Association is to advance the science and art of veterinary medicine, including its relationship to public health, biological science, and agriculture. The Association provides a forum for the discussion of issues of importance to the veterinary profession, and for the development of official positions. The Association is the authorised voice for the profession in presenting its views to government, academia, agriculture, pet owners, the media, and other concerned publics.

Greener route to anti-inflammatory drugs

Dr Francesca Paradisi of the Centre for Synthesis and Chemical Biology (CSCB) at UCD, working with Professor Daria Giacomini and colleagues at the University of Bologna, Italy, have developed a highly efficient enzyme-driven process which could be applied to the synthesis of drugs such as Ibuprofen, to avoid the 50% waste of the undesired byproduct generated by current processes.

Their paper published in the Royal Society of Chemistry's Chemical Communications has been tagged as an exciting development. Dr Paradisi and her co-workers used an enzyme called horse liver alcohol dehydrogenase to drive a process known as dynamic kinetic resolution (DKR). The researchers believe that this process could be applied to the synthesis of the Profen class of pharmaceutical products and that it represents a real move toward environmentally friendly chemical processes.

The precursor to Ibuprofen, one of the most commonly used anti-inflammatory agents, is Ibuprofenol, which is a member of a class of molecules, called arylpropanols. These molecules like many in nature occur in two forms; these are mirror images known as R and S, like right and left. But the biological activity of Ibuprofen is mainly due to the S form. Using conventional processes for preparing pure S-Ibuprofenol, a maximum conversion of

only 50% is possible which is wasteful both economically and environmentally.

Kinetic resolution is based on the idea that the two forms of the molecules react at different rates. With DKR, it is possible to theoretically achieve 100% completion because both R and S forms of the starting material form a chemical equilibrium and exchange. In this way the faster reacting S form is replenished in the course of the reaction at the expense of the slower reacting R form, giving higher yields of the desired product.

Enzymes as biocatalysts offer many advantages over conventional chemical catalysts. The use of purified enzymes as reagents for organic synthesis is an important step in the development of environmentally benign or "greener" chemical processes.

Research projects in Dr Paradisi's lab are all focused on a move towards "greener" chemistry. One project funded by Sustainable Energy Ireland through IRCSET is looking at the process of converting vegetable oils into biofuels. A collaboration with researchers from the UCD School of Agricultural Engineering funded by the Department of Agriculture aims to look at adding value to agricultural waste and a third project aims to clone and produce a novel enzyme from organisms that live in salted lakes and the sea.

Pictured (l-r): Dr Francesca Paradisi, Dr Enrico Emer, Dr Daniele Balducci, Philip Conway, Dr Elena Lestini, Sabrina Devereux, Cillín MacDonnchadha, Gabriele Gucciardo, Leanne Timpson, Elaine O'Reilly.



Vietnamese Prime Minister visits UCD

Ireland-Vietnam Blood-borne Virus Initiative in Hanoi announced

The Prime Minister of Vietnam, Mr Nguyen Tan Dung, visited UCD's National Virus Reference Laboratory to meet scientists involved in the Ireland-Vietnam Blood-borne Virus Initiative (IVVI) and inspect the facilities on the Belfield campus. The Prime Minister was accompanied by Minister for Overseas Development, Mr Michael Kitt TD.

The Ireland-Vietnam Blood-borne Virus Initiative (IVVI) involves a partnership between UCD and the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE) in Hanoi, Vietnam. IVVI is co-funded by Irish Aid and Atlantic Philanthropies and brings Irish expertise to bear on blood-borne viral disease prevention and control in Vietnam.

The National Virus Reference Laboratory (NVRL) in UCD is part of the Centre for Research in Infectious Diseases (CRID). It is a leading international facility and the main diagnostic laboratory for viral diseases in Ireland. Under the direction of Professor William Hall, the NVRL carries out over 500,000 tests for infectious diseases such as HIV, hepatitis and human leukaemia viruses, each year.

Working with the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE) in Hanoi, it plays a strategic role in national disease surveillance and control in Vietnam.

The objective of this initiative is to build institutional capacity and infrastructure within Vietnam for clinical and diagnostic virology, which will in turn help develop public health policies in that country.

The three main blood borne viruses to be covered are: HIV, Hep B and Hep C. In the Vietnam context, HTLV human T cell leukaemia virus may also be a significant infection in certain parts of the country. To date there is no real measure of the true levels of these

infections in Vietnam and the public health interventions cannot be implemented until accurate information is obtained.

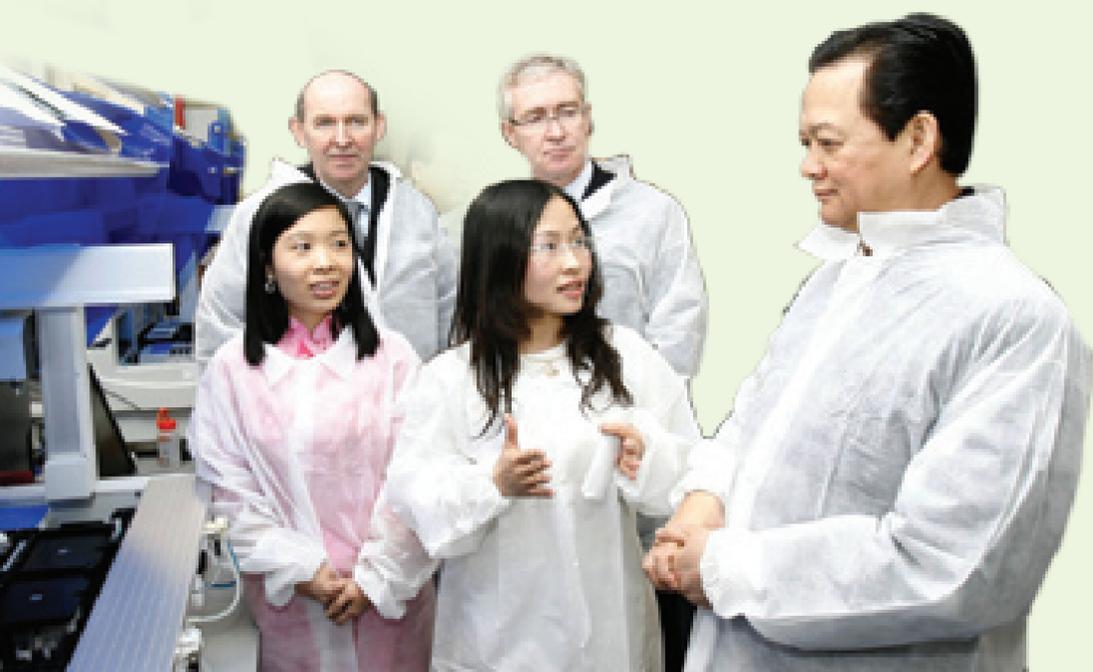
To address this, the IVVI is setting up training programmes for Vietnamese staff in diagnostic virology at the National Virus Reference laboratory here at UCD. In addition to management training, UCD has set up a virology-training programme at UCD and will take two trainees per year for four years for a structured one-year MSc in clinical and diagnostic virology.

The project also involves construction of a sophisticated diagnostic lab containing seven distinct fully equipped laboratories in Hanoi, which will be accredited to the highest European standards. On 17 March the Tanaiste and Minister for Finance, Mr Brian Cowen, turned the sod on this purpose-built facility for the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE).

The third strand in the IVVI initiative is the conducting of a major epidemiological study of blood-borne virus infections in different regions of Vietnam. This study will involve taking 38,000 samples from six provinces across defined population groups including injecting drug users, commercial sex workers, blood transfusion patients, renal dialysis patients, university students and patients undergoing elective surgical procedures. In parallel, the study will establish training programmes in sample and demographic information collection.

The overall goals of the IVVI initiative are to establish the viral diagnostic infrastructure in Vietnam, confirm the level of blood-borne virus infections, assist in the development of public health and preventative programmes, and establish productive long-term relationship between Vietnam and Ireland in research and education in the biological sciences.

Pictured are the Prime Minister of Vietnam, Mr Nguyen Tan Dung visiting the National Virus Reference Laboratory at University College Dublin. The Prime Minister was accompanied by the Minister for Overseas Development, Mr Michael Kitt TD (back left) and Dr Hugh Brady, President of UCD, (back right).



Cultural Diversity Week at UCD

The internationally acclaimed exhibition, "1000 Families: The Family Album of the Planet" developed by Suas and Concern Worldwide was on show at Belfield during annual Cultural Diversity Week which ran in February 2008. Over 60 large family portraits were on display outside the Daedalus building and 40 more were on display inside Health Sciences building.

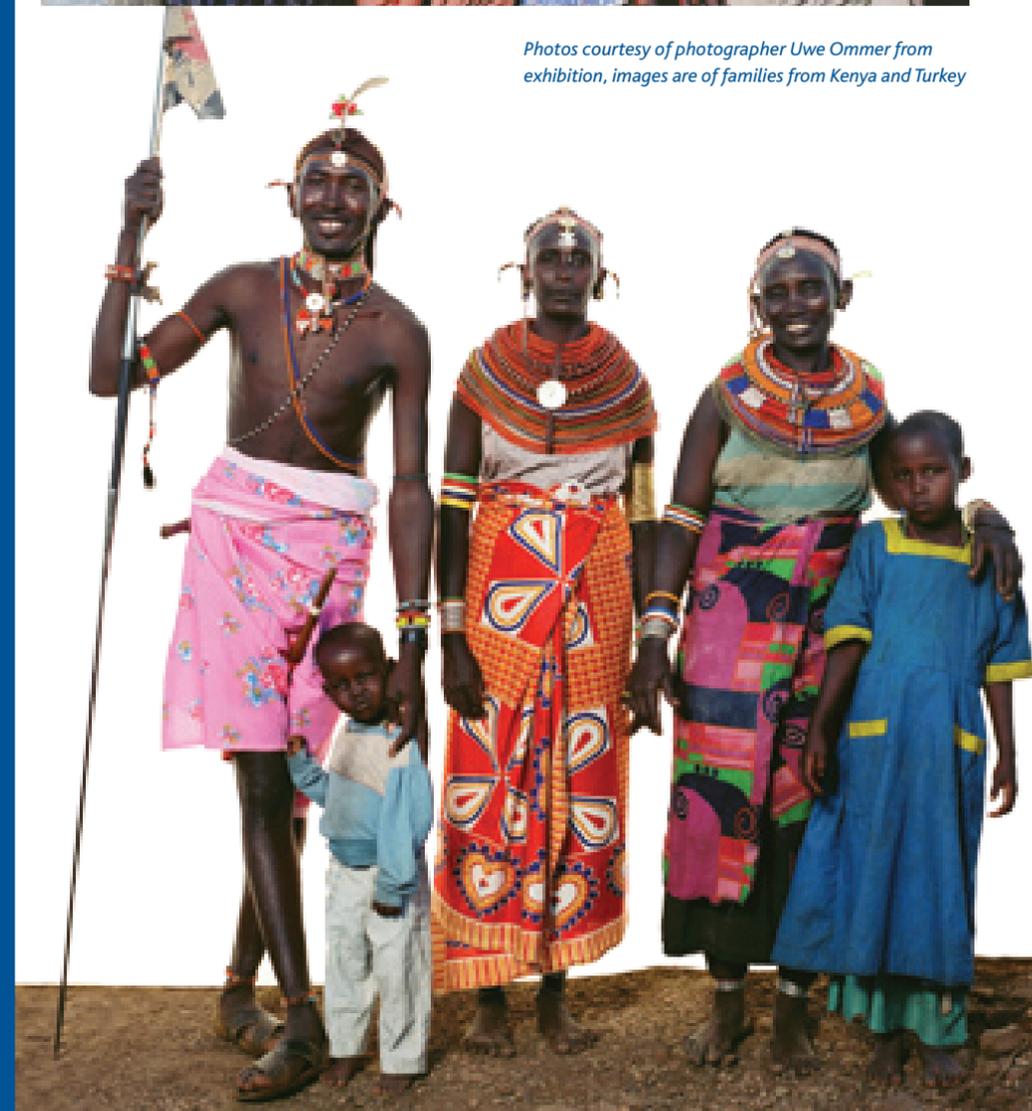
For almost four years, German photographer, Uwe Ommer travelled the globe taking photographs of more than one thousand families. He believes that the family is the backbone of every society, regardless of geographic location. The family is where we learn, grow, cry, laugh and who we share our life with. The families he photographed came from many different ethnic backgrounds but common themes like love and respect emerge from his photographs.

The "1000 Families" photographic exhibition gave viewers the opportunity to discover that while each family is unique, they are also bound together by universal threads. The exhibition is part of a European campaign called 'Building Unity Through Diversity'. It is the brainchild of Echos Communication, a Brussels based communications agency that aims to develop the understanding of Africa amongst the European public. As part of the campaign, the exhibition has been on view in Belgium, Finland, Malta and Kenya, engaging large numbers of people in issue of development, changing perceptions and stimulating debate.

The annual Cultural Diversity week at UCD is hosted by the UCD International Office. It involves an entire calendar of events for the week.



Photos courtesy of photographer Uwe Ommer from exhibition, images are of families from Kenya and Turkey



UCD receives highest allocation – €13.7 million – in second round of SIF awards

The Minister for Education and Science, Ms Mary Hanafin, announced details of the second round of the Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF) in February, which awarded UCD €13.7m, the highest of any of the universities and institutes of technology. The SIF was introduced by Minister Hanafin to improve teaching and learning, support the development of fourth level, promote access and lifelong learning, enhance collaboration between higher education institutions and support internal change.

The key element of the UCD institutional bid is a pioneering partnership involving all the higher education institutions in the Dublin region. The Dublin Region Higher Education Alliance (DRHEA) brings together UCD, TCD, NUIM, DCU, DIT, IT Blanchardstown, IT Tallaght and DLIADT to work on a series of focused projects

to enhance regional capacity in graduate and undergraduate education.

Further funding to support the internationalisation of the DRHEA and to improve our information systems is to be announced in the near future following further discussion with the HEA.

Speaking about the announcement the Deputy President, Dr Philip Nolan extended thanks to all those at UCD and in the partner institutions who worked hard to develop a winning proposal. "This is an extremely exciting announcement for UCD and for Dublin. This funding allows us to build on the hard work we have done to modularise, restructure and build our graduate schools so that we can provide quality and flexibility for our students. The commitment to collaboration will enable us to

create critical mass and thereby maximize our efforts. The partnership builds on a very strong working relationship between the participating institutions. The DRHEA, as a consortium, was awarded €40 million of the €97 million announced yesterday by the Minister, this in itself is a tribute to all those who worked hard and took risks to build this partnership."

Universities and Colleges submitted proposals to Higher Education Authority last year and they were considered by an international panel, convened by the HEA. In total, 29 projects across 20 institutions have been allocated funds under this round of SIF. A further two sectoral submissions from the Irish Universities Association and the Institutes of Technology Ireland have also received funds.

Speaking at the announcement Minister Hanafin said "the role of the higher education system is critical to Ireland's future success. Rapid changes in the global economy are being shaped by new advances in knowledge and technology. Individual institutions recognise that they are part of a national higher education system."

Mr Michael Kelly, Chairman of the HEA, added "The collaborative nature of the projects funded today is something on which the Higher Education Authority places great importance. By working together, Ireland's third level institutions can further enhance this island's reputation as a global centre for learning and research. The proposals were assessed on the basis of tangible impact for students."

UCD researchers assist European Space Agency

The European Space Agency's largest single contribution to the International Space Station, the Columbus laboratory was launched into orbit 07 February 2008 and has since docked with the International Space Station.

The 4.5-metre diameter cylindrical module, equipped with flexible research facilities, will enable earth-based researchers, together with the International Space Station crew, to conduct thousands of scientific experiments in the weightlessness of orbit.

A group of UCD researchers, led by Dr David Browne from the UCD School of Electric, Electronic and Mechanical Engineering are coordinating and driving initiatives which the ESA is planning for the use of this laboratory. The UCD team is actively supporting ground

based research which will lead to new near zero-gravity experiments onboard the Columbus laboratory.

"Ireland may still be some way from producing its first astronaut, but we are developing the scientific ideas which will keep European ISS astronauts busy in years to come, hopefully inspiring Irish children to become space-bound," said Dr Browne.

The UCD Phase Transformation Group is led by Dr David J Browne, and its Microgravity Project Manager is Dr Shaun Mc Fadden. Their prime interests are in the effects of gravity on the solidification of novel alloys, and have been involved in developing computational models of solidification, in design of space experiments, and in analysis of the results.

Dr David Browne, UCD, pictured in front of a Columbus prototype model at a microgravity research meeting in ESA, ESTEC, Noordwijk, Netherlands.



Development

Investing in Childhood

Major investment into early childhood development is currently taking place in Ireland. Dr Orla Doyle speaks to Danielle Barron (BSc2005) about a groundbreaking new programme in UCD, which is using a multidisciplinary team to evaluate the full socio-economic benefits of this type of investment.

"In Ireland we traditionally have not invested enough in early childhood, compared to other countries in the EU," explains Dr Orla Doyle, Senior Researcher at the UCD Geary Institute and lecturer in the School of Public Health and Population Science.

Research has proved that the first couple of years of a child's life is the most important period, and is the time when investment is crucial, adds Dr Doyle.

"This is when children are at the most receptive stage of development and when they are most rapidly developing and changing."

"If you want children that are happier and healthier, are more cognitively aware, have better socio-emotional skills, can interact with other children better, then you have to tackle these issues early in life. It's all about prevention," she explains.

A major new early childhood initiative, jointly funded by Atlantic Philanthropies and the Office of the Minister for Children, has recently been launched in Ireland. This programme will see many new intervention programmes taking place all over the country. The task for Dr Doyle and her multi-disciplinary research team at the UCD Geary Institute, involving economists, developmental psychologists and clinical epidemiologists, is to evaluate the first of these interventions called 'Preparing for Life'.

The Preparing for Life (PFL) programme was devised by the Northside Partnership and the team at the Geary Institute will be evaluating its success. The programme aims to improve levels of school readiness in three designated disadvantaged areas of North Dublin. The programme begins during pregnancy and continues until the children start school.

While there is some evidence, based on studies that were done in the US in the last 40 years, to suggest that early investment provides the most benefits, there is also a need for data specific to the needs and behaviours of Irish children.

"Just because something works in the US, that doesn't necessarily mean it will work here," says Dr Doyle.

"The only way that you can know that a programme works or not is to carry out a rigorous evaluation and the best way to do that is with an experimental design."

"We are currently involved in recruiting the participants and we will be surveying them every six months, collecting a whole range of data on the parents and also on the children, once they are born," says Dr Doyle.

Parents that agree to join the study are randomly assigned to be in one of two different groups. Depending on which group they are in, they will receive a different set of supports, explains Dr Doyle.

While both groups will receive developmental toys for the children and public health information, "one group will have a family mentor who calls to their house every week for five years and helps with key parenting and child development issues, which differ depending on the needs and age of the child."

This arm of the study is a very intensive intervention, admits Dr Doyle.

The other group will have an information officer who can help them access other services, so that they will receive a different experience to that of mentoring.

Having commenced in the past few weeks, Dr Doyle envisions that it will take up to two years to recruit the full cohort of 200 participants for the study. After the first five-year period for which the programme has received funding, she hopes that the children involved will be monitored through adolescence, early adulthood and beyond.

The study is the first of its kind to be carried out in Ireland, explains Dr Doyle.

"It is very innovative and has attracted the attention of world-renowned researchers in the area to UCD, she explains.

Working with Dr Doyle is Professor James Heckman, the Henry Schultz Distinguished Service Professor of Economics at The University of Chicago and winner of the Nobel Prize for economics in 2000, as well as Professor Richard Tremblay, Professor of Psychology, Pediatrics and Psychiatry and the Director of the Research Unit on Children's Psycho-Social Maladjustment at the University of Montreal, who have both taken up positions at the university.

Dr Doyle's background is in economics, having studied for her BA and PhD at Trinity College Dublin.

She admits however, that she is not a traditional economist.

"What I do is applied microeconomics so I use the rigorous statistical tools and apply them to certain issues."

Dr Doyle has previously used these techniques to explore issues such as breastfeeding, cognitive ability and childcare from an economist's point of view.

"With PFL, what we are trying to establish is when do you invest - is pregnancy the optimum time to invest and do you have to supplement that investment later on?"

Dr Doyle is hoping that this study will answer some of these questions.

"It may or may not work but that's why we are evaluating it in such a manner. If it does work then the idea is that it may be rolled out on a national basis."

A cost benefit analysis of the study will be carried out, but the full range of benefits may not be obvious for some time.

"We may not see these results for 10, 20 or even 30 years. We would like to see results such as if these kids stay in school longer for example- we hope to follow these children right through to adulthood."

Danielle Barron is Clinical Editor of the Irish Medical News

Dr Orla Doyle



Graduate Studies Opportunities Day

Approximately 350 graduates and final year students were welcomed to the Graduate Studies Opportunities Day in O'Reilly Hall on March 5.

The event was built on the 2007 Graduate Opportunities Day, and had been adapted to provide a personalised service to each attendee coming to the event.

At the Opportunities Day, prospective graduates could get information on their particular area of taught or research interest, and chat with staff and students about graduate life at UCD. The event also included a panel discussion covering essentials such as planning next steps, funding, and the structured PhD. Campus tours were also conducted for the visiting students.

Along with the Graduate Schools, and Support Services stands, an exhibition of research opportunities from all UCD Schools and Institutes was displayed in the conservatory. This allowed prospective graduate students to discover the depth of research being conducted at UCD.

Speaking about the day, Professor Michael P Ryan, Dean of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Training, said, "We were pleased with this year's event and look forward to continuing to provide prospective students with the all information they need to make their choices. We have an ambitious target of increasing the number of graduate students from its current level of some 6,000 to 11,000 by 2012, and that events like this can play a vital role in this work."

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



Transition Year students experience life as research scientists at UCD

In January, 14 Transition Year students from Dublin and Laois took up residency at the Centre for Synthesis and Chemical Biology (CSCB), with a further 10 pupils experiencing life as a research scientist at the UCD Conway Institute.

At the CSCB, each member of the group was assigned a postgraduate or postdoctoral researcher as mentor in the laboratories at the CSCB and UCD School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology. Students performed a variety of experiments including isolating lycopene from a tomato, making aspirin, and looking at the creation of bio-diesel using vegetable oil.

Over the course of the week, the students were amazed by glassblowing and some chemistry "illusions". They were also given an introduction to the techniques of mass spectrometry and nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy. To give them a broader taste of science at UCD, they also participated in practical workshops at the UCD School of Computer Science and Informatics, the UCD Conway Institute and the UCD School of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering.

At the UCD Conway Institute, the group began their week with a look at the world of forensics, learning about crime scene analysis techniques and the real science behind the scenes of the popular TV show CSI. The rest of the week saw them attending "real" lectures, shadowing scientists in the Conway Institute, touring the Veterinary hospital and visiting the CSCB for a chemistry workshop.

A visit to the laboratories of the Education and Research centre at St. Vincent's hospital illustrated to them the close working relationship between clinical researchers and doctors in areas such as breast cancer and inflammatory bowel disease. Further insights into medical research came from lectures given by Dr Keith Murphy and Dr Amanda McCann.

The visitors came away from both programmes impressed at the range of career and study options available in science. Kate Murphy from Mount Anville Secondary School summed it up: "I really enjoyed the week and it opened my eyes to science and how enjoyable it can be."

Pictured are Transition Year students



How does a degree increase its first preferences by 115%?

The answer for the Social Science degree lies in taking advantage of UCD's modular structure to provide attractive new study options in the degree aligned to careers and graduate study and in taking time to communicate these options clearly to prospective students.

Interest in social science had been declining steadily over the past eight years. This was primarily due to the emergence of new Social Care degrees in the Institutes of Technology which offered an alternative path into graduate Social Work training. The similarity of parts of the curriculum with the BA degree also led to confusion for potential students.

According to Professor Bairbre Redmond, Dean of Social Science, a deep and comprehensive review of the degree programme was needed to restore interest. "It became clear to me that the degree had lost its distinctiveness. When we look across the board at our students it is

obvious that they have one important thing in common – they all want to work with people. We needed to show them that the Social Science degree could allow them develop this interest in people in a number of really attractive and rewarding career pathways.

The schools in the College of Human Sciences really rose to the challenge of helping to revitalise the degree. Many willingly offered specialised modules and for the first time, psychology and social justice are contributing to the degree."

The refocused Social Science degree keeps the students' key interest in people at its centre but weaves it into seven well-defined study paths that lead on to specific career and graduate tracks.

Stage one offers students a broad introduction to the human sciences with core modules in sociology and social policy as well as

module options from subjects such as politics, economics, geography, archaeology, information studies and psychology. As with all undergraduate degrees since the introduction of UCD Horizons, students can also choose 2 modules from across the university. Importantly, the new structure is committed to offering students more work in small groups supported by individual advice and attention.

In Stage two students begin to specialise and are guided along their choice of seven career paths. Advanced research involves a major in sociology and leads students into careers in market research, business or the public service. The social work path leads to a two year professional masters programme and careers in the health services or community work. The environmental and urban studies path includes modules in geography and/or archaeology and can lead to further study and careers in urban planning and policy, anthropology and international development. The crime and social order path leads to careers in the areas of justice, probation, youth and community. The policy analysis path leads to careers as analysts and policy makers in the private and public sector both in Ireland and internationally. Human and organisational administration crosses into the business world, leading to careers in marketing, human resources and industrial relations. Information studies leads to careers in research, information and a professional masters in librarianship.

Armed with these clear pathways and reinvigorated with a fresh focus, Social Science staff and students took their message to the schools and mature student networks.

A visit to the Social Science webpage on the Prospective Students' site www.ucd.ie/myucd demonstrates the clear message to students. "Our degree lets our students shape their own careers but guides them through so that they can maximise their studies," says Bairbre Redmond. "When we took the new degree structure to the schools we saw an immediate excitement among students who knew they wanted to work with people but weren't sure yet what they wanted to specialise in. The way we have structured the degree really seems to have captured the students' attention. UCD's recent success in attracting SIF2 funding for enhancement of learning will also allow us to develop new modules in the degree that can support and reward students' relevant voluntary work in the community; a great opportunity for them to see their social science theory in practice".

For the UCD Schools of Applied Social Science and Sociology this refocus and upsurge in interest is just the beginning.

Chinese New Year at UCD



Artists performing at the UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland, Chinese New Year Celebrations at University College Dublin.

The UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland hosted a gala performance to celebrate the Chinese New Year 2008, the Year of the Rat, at University College Dublin on 08 February 2008. More than 600 people attended the free Chinese Gala Performance which took place in O'Reilly Hall, Belfield.

To open the performance a group of Year 1 students from Loreto High School sang the well-known Chinese pop song 'Tian mi mi' (Sweet as honey). Then the audience was entertained by a variety of cultural artists from China including: Mr Yang Hong from the Chengdu Opera Troupe and winner of the UN Intangible Cultural Heritage Award, who performed Chinese 'face-changing,' one of the oldest art-forms in Sichuan opera; Ms Liu Yi from the Sichuan Opera Troupe who performed Chinese Dance (Shuixiu wu); Mr Shao Jianguo from the Chengdu Opera Troupe who performed Chinese Hand Shadow (Shou ying); Ms Hu Jiayue, a Sichuan Province Professional Acrobatics Competition gold medal winner, who gave an astounding acrobatic (Baixi) performance; singer Wu Hua who sang a selection of traditional Chinese folk songs; and Mr King Zeyong who performed Kung-fu tea.

The second half of the performance started with UCD BComm with Chinese students

singing the Chinese pop song 'Laoshu aid a mi' (The rat loves to eat rice), followed by a performance by the Beijing Bailing Shadow Puppet Troupe. Shadow puppetry is one of the rare treasures of Chinese performing arts. This lesser known art form is dying out as China experiences rapid economic growth and cultural change. Shadow puppetry first appeared in Beijing around 500 years ago during the Ming Dynasty (1368 – 1644). The Beijing Bailing Shadow Puppet Troupe is the only remaining professional performing troupe today.

The appearance of artists from the Chengdu Opera Troupe was courtesy of the Chinese Irish Cultural Academy and the appearance of the Beijing Bailing Shadow Puppet Troupe was courtesy of China Arts UK.

"It was wonderful to see such a large crowd gathered to watch the Chinese Gala Performance to celebrate the Chinese New Year," said Dr Liming Wang, Director of the UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland. "At the UCD Confucius Institute for Ireland, we work with the Irish government, business, and academia to contribute to the growth and promotion of bilateral cooperation between Ireland and China specifically in education, culture, and commerce."

Experts gather in Dublin to discuss future of Irish Financial Services Sector

The Michael Smurfit Graduate School of Business and the UCD Quinn School of Business hosted a seminar entitled "IFSC 2.0 – The Next Phase" at the Institute of Bankers IFSC. The keynote speaker was International COO and Senior Vice President of Merrill Lynch, John Sievwright.

Other speakers at the seminar included Brian Ruane, Executive Vice president of the Bank of New York Mellon, Patrick Neary, Chief Executive, Financial Regulator, Barry O'Leary, Chief Executive, IDA, Dermot Mc Carthy, Secretary General, Department of the Taoiseach and Sean Fitzpatrick, Chairman, Anglo Irish Bank.

Siewwright was discussing his perspectives on global financial markets and the implications for Ireland. He outlined the outstanding performance of the financial service sector in Ireland:

In light of Dublin's position in the recently published City of London Global Financial Centres Index report (GFCI), Sievwright emphasised the importance of the availability

of skilled, highly qualified workforce in the financial services sector:

"Dublin has moved nine places on this index to thirteenth on the global list of financial centre ratings. Dublin now leads Paris - a feat beyond anyone's wildest imagination back in 1987."

"Quite clearly Ireland needs to rethink its value proposition. Dublin should increasingly look to position itself as a bridge between the EU to Asia."

John Travers, Former Forfás Chief and current Executive Director of the Global Finance Academy at UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School who chaired the seminar commented: "The Irish Financial Services Sector can be regarded as a great success over the past 20 years. The sector is now developing into a second phase of activity and we felt it was imperative that a platform was in place for leaders from all sides of the economy including banking, academia, regulatory and government to come together and give their perspectives on the past 20 years as well as their outlook for the future."



Pictured are Paul Haran, Principal of the UCD College of Business & Law, with John Sievwright, Senior VP, Merrill Lynch and Patrick Neary, Chief Executive, Financial Regulator at IFSC 2.0 The Next Phase seminar.

Farewell Reception

The School of Medicine and Medical Science bid farewell to its third year Malaysian cohort at a Farewell Reception in the Health Sciences Centre on Thursday, 28 February 2008. Professor William Powderly, Head of School and Dean of Medicine, congratulated the students on their successful training thus far and wished them well as they embarked on their clinical training in Penang.



New Online Events Calendar

UCD IT Services in association with UCD University Relations has recently launched a new online Events Calendar on the UCD homepage.

The new calendar allows users to call up event listings by day, week or month. Events can also be displayed by a category such as: conferences, seminars, sports events and open days to name only a few. Each category is fully keyword searchable by month.

"The improvements to the calendar also benefit those inputting event details", says Peter McKiernan, IT Services. "The submission of events is far more efficient and user-friendly with the introduction of an online form with image capture for inputting event details through the new secure intranet environment."

Management of the overall publication process is streamlined through the new Content Management System. This system provides moderated workflows and an improved publication process which helps to ensure events appear without delay and that only timely information is included.

The new service also provides a "deep linking" capability so that published events can be linked from other websites, adding to the flexibility of the system.

The online calendar can be viewed at www.ucd.ie/events.

Brainstorming informs Structured PhD Programme

Professor Mark Keane, UCD Vice-President for Innovation, recently hosted a lively "brainstorming" session at NovaUCD to gather input from key UCD staff involved in the development of the Structured PhD Programme. The focus of the session was to identify additional courses in the Innovation and Transferable Skills area that might in future be offered as part of the Structured PhD Programme

NovaUCD has for a number of years been running short-courses in the area of Entrepreneurship and Technology Transfer for UCD postgraduate students. This year for the first time these courses, which were developed further in collaboration with the UCD Michael Smurfit School of Business are accredited as part of the UCD Graduate Studies Structured PhD Programme. The two modules currently being delivered are entitled Introduction to Entrepreneurship and Transferring Technology from Research to the Knowledge Economy.

The session reviewed the evaluation feedback from the current modules and discussed what the various UCD Graduate Schools would like to do in terms of offering their graduate students a richer, deeper and more innovative experience as they progress through their PhD at UCD.

Suggestions included intensive summer school modules; industry placements; more workshop-based sessions; various credit models; 'deeper' technology sessions for large research groups and the importance of facilitating the interdisciplinary mix of students at these courses.

The next stage in this process is to formulate some proposed developments for the PhD programme in 2008/2009 and commence work with UCD Graduate Studies to deliver these.

If you are interested in contributing to any future meetings on this topic please email Mark Keane (vp.innovation@ucd.ie).

NovaUCD the Innovation and Technology Transfer Centre at UCD.



UCD's new Content Management System

UCD's new Content Management System (CMS) will transform the way websites are published and managed at UCD.

IT Services are rolling out the new CMS in the coming weeks and has a team ready to provide ongoing training, support and guidance to help with the migration of website content into the Terminalfour Site Manager CMS.

Terminalfour's Site Manager CMS facilitates users to easily create, manage and publish content to websites through a set of user-friendly browser based publishing tools.

Having participated in the CMS pilot Emma Kavanagh from UCD Research says "Site Manager helped us by greatly reducing the time and effort required to manage a dynamic and regularly updated website."

Dr Rob Sands, IT Specialist from UCD School of Archaeology, agrees that "Overall it's made a huge difference." According to him there are a number of key advantages to moving to the new CMS:

"For example, a news item is created once and its headline will automatically appear on the home page, while the headline and the rest of the story appears on the news page. The story can be set to appear on a particular day and disappear after a particular date, if you choose, the system can also archive that piece of content to a completely different part of the site."

"Ease of navigation development is an important benefit" adds Dr Sands, "Site Manager makes navigation, which could be a potentially big issue, a lot easier. When I want to include new pages all I have to do is add

a new section to the CMS." While there will always be a requirement to consider actual navigation structure and flow of information, the automation features of the CMS streamline the process allowing the content provider to give more time to thinking about the quality of content itself.

In terms of manageability Dr Sands points out "Managing old content and preparing content for publishing in advance is another great feature. It means you can plan in advance, put the content together the way you want when you have the time to do it and set it to publish later during busy periods."

He adds "Transferring the content on to the new system takes time and thought, however the process of reflecting on and reviewing your content, although time consuming is worth the effort in the end."

Among its benefits the CMS will help to ensure that obligations to web visitors with disabilities are fulfilled and it will also facilitate search engine optimisation to increase web traffic.

The CMS facilitates the reuse and sharing of content on different pages of a website or even between different websites. The CMS also assists with the publication of sections of websites in bilingual or multilingual format.

As the CMS is fully browser based all of this can be done wherever there is Internet access and can be contributed to by more than one person if required.

To find out more about what the CMS can do for you, keep an eye on www.ucd.ie/itservices/webservices or contact IT Services at cms@ucd.ie for more information.

The screenshot shows the UCD School of Archaeology website. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links like 'UCD Home', 'About UCD', 'UCD News & Events', 'Virtual Tour', 'Contact UCD', 'Staff Directories', 'UCD Storage', and 'UCD Connect'. Below the menu is a search bar and a 'UCD MAIN MENU' dropdown. The main content area features a 'UCD School of Archaeology' header with a 'Go to' button. A welcome message from Prof. Muirís Ó Súilleabháin is displayed. A list of news items is shown, including 'Sixth World Archaeology Congress' and 'Foresight Report: Archaeology 2020'. The footer contains contact information for the Head of School and the UCD School of Archaeology.

Research

The Sum of Knowledge

Dr Scott Rickard, Director of CASL speaks to Louise Holden about this unique and exciting collaborative research laboratory at UCD.

What do you get if you cross a volcano and a human heart? A new geography of knowledge. At the UCD Complex and Adaptive Systems Laboratories (CASL) a geologist and a biologist may breach frontiers of science over a cup of coffee. The idea may sound simple, take scientists of different disciplines and put them in one building but already the results and the promise of this project are exhilarating.

"We have worked in disciplinary silos, our ideas and research remaining within our own specific areas," says CASL Director Scott Rickard. "CASL is unique in Ireland, and rare in the world, in that it brings together researchers from many areas, all looking for connections. Colocation is crucial to this project."

There are 200 researchers now housed at the CASL; computer scientists, mathematicians, electrical engineers, geoscientists, financial academics and biomedical scientists. They have come together in their new home at the Belfield campus to share knowledge to the tune of three master themes: Simulation & Modelling, Communication and Knowledge Discovery in Data (see panel).

"The move into CASL has catalysed collaborations between diverse academics," says Rickard, who took up the directorship with some unanswered research questions stemming from his graduate work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

"I have been studying Costas arrays," he explains. "In the 1960s engineer John Costas developed new sonar codes using sequences of musical notes that contained no repeated patterns. Electrical engineers, like me, extended his findings and applied them in other areas such as communication technology. Motivated by some practical concerns in the communication problem, I had noticed some patterns having to do with prime numbers, but

I'm not a number theorist so I couldn't pursue my finding without decades of further study."

It was at the CASL that Rickard worked with Professor Roderick Gow, UCD School of Mathematics. Rickard had tried to collaborate with the eminent number theorist before, but the fifteen-minute stretch between their two faculties thwarted his efforts. At the CASL, Rickard and Gow could further their collaboration in the lift or over coffee. They have since discovered the theory behind Rickard's observations and Gow has linked Costas arrays to esoteric results in number theory known as Class Numbers. The collaboration has fathomed a deep relationship between two very different mathematical fields.

"There was a pent up need for the CASL," says Rickard. "By putting people within metres of each other collaborations spring from all sorts of encounters, and they progress much more rapidly."

Rickard gives the example of how a number of CASL investigators are working on localisation, or the problem of determining the locations of sound sources. Professor Christopher Bean, UCD School of Geological Sciences has been studying localisation in an effort to 'read' the acoustics in and around volcanoes; separating out the vibrations and murmurs, identifying them and using the data to understand and predict volcanic activity. Meanwhile, computer scientists at the CASL are trying to localise the position of people using electromagnetic technology. In a third manifestation of this theme, biomedical researchers have been trying to employ vibration localisation to detect arterial blockages.

Now, the CASL is hosting a series of 'localisation days' or '20:20:20 Thursdays', as Rickard likes to call them. Each group gets twenty minutes to talk about their localisation research, and ideas are shared and cross-fertilised. As a result, a new project has been born, a novel technique for acoustic source separation that combines the Professor Bean's acoustic readings of volcanic activity with attempts to read the vibrations of blood flow to the heart.

"Before Chris got involved, our efforts to read blood turbulence were failing," says Rickard, who has been working on the technique with a team of cardiologists

for a number of years. "He was able to tell us why our approach couldn't work, and help us to discover what would work. Who would have thought that a geophysical scientist and an electrical engineer could successfully collaborate on a cardiovascular health project? You couldn't plan that. It was our proximity that made it happen."

Out of the various collaborations at the CASL, new disciplines are starting to emerge. It happens, says Rickard, when experts from unlinked areas try to find a common language. "There can be huge language barriers between scientists from discrete disciplines," says Rickard. "In order for them to work together they have to forge a common language. That takes time and a lot of learning happens in the process. As a result of one such collaboration we have developed a new graduate programme in Computational Biomedicine. It is a new discipline born of the efforts to communicate across disciplines. We are training the next generation of scientists to be multi-lingual."

In the future, Rickard predicts, scientific breakthroughs will increasingly be developed by scientists trained in this multi-disciplinary way. Could this engender a new generation of Renaissance men and women, capable of the kind of 'un-disciplined' thought that led to the explosive creativity of a Da Vinci or a Michelangelo?

"It's hard to imagine that a single human mind can ever perform the kind of cross-disciplinary feats that the old scientists achieved," says Rickard. "We have learned so much, there is so much to know – one person can hardly traverse it all. However, through centres like the CASL, we can bring groups of thinkers together to simulate the brains of the old scientists in a new, information-rich context. We can connect all the bits of the brain again, by bringing the sum of the knowledge into one place."

And what of other disciplines – art, social science, the humanities – in what part of the CASL's collective consciousness do they belong? "I have a vision of a scientific method that can incorporate many more disciplines, and the secret lies in computation, the new microscope of science," Rickard muses. "Through computation we can model all sorts of human situations that we could not explore using the pillars of theory and experiment. Computation allows us to collapse markets, stage riots, and model patterns of human behaviour that we could not create otherwise. With computation as a third pillar of scientific enquiry we will be able to draw in an even wider diversity of disciplines."

For now, those of us concerned with the arts and humanities can satisfy ourselves with the poetry of crossing a volcano with a human heart.

Louise Holden is a journalist with the Irish Times and is currently enrolled on the MEd programme at UCD.

Dr Scott Rickard



Master themes at the CASL

Principal investigators and researchers from a wide range of areas are working together at the CASL on three big themes that cross the disciplinary divide

Simulation

All systems; from atomic to astrophysical, biological to financial; have similar underlying structures from a computational perspective. They are all subject to turbulence, risk, volatility, stability, and chaos. These underlying systems may be hard to map using traditional analytic approaches but computational simulation can lead to understanding and provide valuable predictions. "To study how a market collapses, you can't crash the market," says CASL director Scott Rickard. "But you can simulate the crash using computation."

Communication

The mobile society requires increased communications with higher data requirements – channels of communication are filled to the point where they can no longer reliably deliver the flow of information. The CASL brings together communications researchers from mathematics, electronic engineering and computer science with expertise in Finite Field Theory, Coding, Cryptography, Networks and FPGA Design, to develop, design and build robust and private systems.

Knowledge Discovery and Data

Information technology is yielding vast reservoirs of data, which cannot be processed as quickly as they are produced. The Genome Project, for example, is turning over much more information about the human genome than researchers can possibly analyse. Principal investigators at the CASL are looking at computational solutions to data processing, which may be applied across disciplines from biology to finance; helping us to make more profitable use of the fruits of our information age.



Chemistry captures imagination at AccesScience '08

Billy Fleming was awarded first place in AccesScience '08. He spoke to a 600-strong audience about 'The Nature of Chemistry', and explained how research being done at the UCD Centre for Synthesis and Chemical Biology is identifying ways of generating vital drug therapies in the laboratory rather than relying on the finite and precious resources of nature.

AccesScience is an annual competition designed to encourage third year postgraduate students from the UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular and Biomedical Research to explain their cutting edge research in terms that can be understood by the non-scientific layperson. This year saw six finalists rise to the challenge, covering a wide range of topics.

Billy's work involves the manufacture of 'catalysts', which can be used and reused in the

synthetic replication of drugs normally found in nature. He compared his catalysts to a priest who can marry two people together – thus creating a new partnership - but without being affected himself. This leaves the priest free to continue performing marriage ceremonies for any number of other lucky couples! So too Billy's catalysts, once created, can be used to continue binding molecules together to form a variety of drugs that can be used to treat diseases ranging from cancer to athlete's foot. In this way, healthcare can continue to advance, but in an environmentally friendly way.

Second place in the competition was awarded to Belinda Maher who spoke on work being done using statins to help reduce the rate at which heart transplant patients reject the new organ. Shane Kenny won third place for his presentation on the development of biodegradable plastics in the chemistry lab.

The AccesScience competition was hosted by RTE's Pat Kenny who is a long-standing supporter of the initiative. Audience members joined a celebrity-judging panel in picking the winning speaker. A poster competition open to primary and secondary schools from around the country was also judged by the celebrity panel on the day. First prize in the primary category was awarded to Aine Dunne of the Gorey Educate Together National School, Gorey, Co. Wexford, while Lidia Sokolowska of Dominican College, Sion Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, won first prize in the secondary school category. The winners of prizes in the poster competition will have their artwork displayed on DART trains and stations later in the year as part of the Science Track series, a joint initiative between Iarnród Éireann and UCD Conway Institute.

Pictured is AccesScience winner Billy Fleming with host Pat Kenny



UCD Professor awarded prestigious Japan Society Fellowship

Professor Peter A. Hogan, UCD School of Physics, has become the first Irish scientist to be awarded a prestigious Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Fellowship by Japan's leading funding agency.

Professor Hogan works in the field of General Relativity (Einstein's theory of Gravity) and his Japanese collaboration will focus on developing a general relativistic theory of celestial mechanics exploiting the geometry of space-time. He has been collaborating with Prof Futamase since 1991, and in 1992 was the first Irish scientist to be awarded a Canon Foundation Visiting Fellowship to work in Japan.

Professor Hogan has collaborated with five of the leading figures in the history of General Relativity. He has published work in Classical Electrodynamics and Yang-Mills Gauge Theory from the Fibre Bundle point of view as well as in General Relativity (Equations of Motion, Gravitational Radiation, Exact Solutions of Einstein's Equations and Cosmology).

Pictured (l-r) are Mr. Shinji Yamada, First Secretary, Embassy of Japan and Professor Peter A. Hogan, UCD School of Physics.



Chemistry graduate awarded for most outstanding PhD thesis

Dr Emilie Banide from the CSCB and UCD School of Chemistry & Chemical Biology was chosen as the winner of the *Prize for Young Chemists (2007)* awarded by the Royal Irish Academy. On the basis of a 1000-word essay, and the publications resulting from her thesis, it was selected as the best chemistry PhD thesis in Ireland, and she will be entering the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) International Prize for Young Chemists as the Irish winner.

Dr Banide received her undergraduate education in Lyon and in Paris, and completed her PhD entitled "From Allenes to Tetracenes: Syntheses, Structures, and Reactivity of the Intermediates" in three years working in the laboratory of Professor Michael McGlinchey, principal investigator at the CSCB. In her research project, she developed efficient synthetic routes to a wide variety of novel organic compounds that exhibit luminescent behaviour, and have considerable potential for use in computer

display screens. The work was supported by funding from Science Foundation Ireland. Upon graduation, Emilie joined Novartis, the multinational pharmaceutical company, and will be working in Cork and in Basel, Switzerland.

Dr Banide is the second UCD chemist to receive this award in recent years; in 2004 Dr Manuela Tosin from Professor Paul Murphy's group at the CSCB and UCD School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology was the recipient.



Gradaim do Chumann Drámaíochta UCD

Cuireadh fáilte i mbliana roimh Fhéile Drámaíochta na gColáistí chuig an gColáiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath. I measc na n-ollscoileanna a bhí rannpháirteach sa chomórtas idirollscoile seo bhí Coláiste na Tríonóide, Ollscoil na hÉireann, Corcaigh agus Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh. Is é an Comhlachas Náisiúnta Drámaíochta a eagraíonn an comórtas seo gach bliain faoi stiúir Sheáin Uí Mhoránaigh agus ba é Beartla Ó Flatharta a bhí i mbun moltóireachta.

Cuireadh tús le himeachtaí na féile tráthnóna Dé hAoine, 29 Feabhra, nuair a d'fháiltigh Cathaoirleach Bhord na Gaeilge, an tOllamh Micheál Ó Dochartaigh roimh na rannpháirtithe. Bhí blas idirnáisiúnta le brath ar an bhfáiltiú céanna le filíocht as Gaeilge agus as Spáinnis leis an Dr Micheál Ó Fionnáin (Feidhmeannach 'Féile na Bealtaine', Contae Chiarraí). Le linn

na féile, léirigh drámadóirí UCD dhá dhráma nua-scríofa, "Diamhair an Bháis" le Gráinne Nic Fhirléinn (mac léinn Fisiteirpe) agus "Teilifís na Físe" le Rachel Ní Fhionnáin (mac léinn iarchéime Gaeilge). Bhí dráma nua-scríofa "Saoirse nó Daoirse" le Clodagh Nic Gabhann ag aisteoirí na Tríonóide freisin. Léirigh Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh an dráma "Cúig Peso ar an Domhnach", agus léirigh aisteoirí Ollscoil na hÉireann, Corcaigh an dráma "An Lasair Choille". Bhí drámaí uile na féile ar ardchaighdeán agus bhí soilsiú agus fuaim den scoth ar fáil a bhuíochas d'amharchlann 'Dramsoc' in Áras Newman.

Bhí an lá le Cumann Drámaíochta UCD nuair a bronnadh 3 ghradam orthu ag deireadh na féile. Bronnadh gradaim don dráma nua-scríofa is fearr, gradam rogha an lucht féachana agus gradam don obair fhoirne ab fhearr.

Awards for UCD Cumann Drámaíochta

The University Drama Festival was held in UCD this year. Amongst the universities who participated in the intersarsity competition were Trinity College Dublin, University College Cork and NUI Galway. The National Drama Association organise this competition annually under direction from Seán Ó Morónaigh. Beartla Ó Flatharta was adjudicator at the festival.

The festival began on Friday, 29 February 2008 when the Chairperson of Bord na Gaeilge Professor Micheál Ó Dochartaigh welcomed the participants. There was a multi-cultural atmosphere at the reception as Dr Micheál Ó Fionnáin (Executive of 'Féile na Bealtaine' Co. Kerry) read poetry in Spanish and Irish. During the festival UCD students performed

two newly written plays 'Diamhair an Bháis' by Gráinne Nic Fhirléinn (a physiotherapy student) and 'Teilifís na Físe' by Rachel Ní Fhionnáin (a postgraduate Irish student). Trinity College students also performed a new play by Clodagh Nic Gabhann 'Saoirse nó Daoirse'. NUI Galway actors performed 'Cúig Peso ar an Domhnach' and UCC performed 'An Lasair Choille'. All of the plays were of a high standard. Both the light and sound systems were provided by DramSoc in the Newman Building.

UCD Cumann Drámaíochta were presented with their awards on the last day of the festival. Awards were presented for the best newly written play, audience choice award and the best teamwork.

UCD Cumann Drámaíochta (back row, l-r): Liadain Ní Fhoghlú (Italian student), Sinéad Nic Aodha (Veterinary Science student), Gráinne Nic Fhirléinn (Physiotherapy student), Áine Ní Bhreisleáin (Postgraduate Irish student), Rachel Ní Fhionnáin (Postgraduate Irish student)

(Front row, l-r): Dónal Ó hAnnraichtaigh (Medicine student), Rónán Mac Samhráin (Engineering student)



Václav Havel in Europe's Metamorphoses

Václav Havel in Europe Metamorphoses – the remarkable exhibition by Oldřich Škácha was on view at the Clinton Institute during the month of February hosted by UCD School of Politics and International Relations. Opened by His Excellency, Josef Havlas, the Czech Republic Ambassador to Ireland, the exhibition portrayed a powerful and sometimes haunting visual history of an extraordinary man and the part he played in changing central Europe.

The story of Václav Havel can be told in a variety of ways. His impact on Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic was that of a brave political leader who, in 1970 stood up alone to the Communist regime and their Soviet tanks. He became the first spokesman for Chapter 77, the movement that led to the "velvet revolution" and political freedom for the people, and went on to be the last President of

Czechoslovakia and the first President of the Czech Republic in January 1993.

Havel is also a fine writer and dramatist. His first literary works were written during his military service in the late 1950s. In 1960 he began working at Prague's Theatre on the Balustrade, first as a stagehand and later as an assistant director and literary manager. He studied dramatic art theory at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague and by 1966 his first plays, including "The Garden Party" and "The Increased Difficulty of Concentration", had already achieved international acclaim. In 1969 his work was banned and he moved from Prague to the country where he continued his writing and his political activities. His plays continued to be performed across the world but it was not until 1989 that a Havel play "Protest" opened in Czechoslovakia.

Pictured (l-r): Ambassador of the Czech Republic Josef Havlas, James Stafford, Helena Maskova & Josef Smycek



JK Rowling at UCD

An audience of more than 700 people rose to their feet en masse to greet the creator of Harry Potter, JK Rowling, when she appeared at Belfield to receive the James Joyce Award from the UCD Literary and Historical Society on 12 February 2008.

Rowling, who was visibly moved by the mass greeting, acknowledged the adoring crowd by replying 'I love you too' to cries from one particular member of the audience. Then, after taking her place on the podium, she started to read from the seventh and final book in the Harry Potter series, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows. As she read, the audience listened, patiently, waiting for even the smallest gap in the narrative when they could laud more praise and applause on the author for her work.

When the reading was over, JK Rowling took questions from the audience on her career, her fictional characters and her plans for the future. But there was one question which was on everybody's lips: Will she ever consider writing another Harry Potter book? To this she replied: "I do feel that the Harry story is now done, but I could never say never to writing another Harry book."



After the 30 minute questions and answers session, the author met with fans of all ages to sign several hundred copies of her Harry Potter books.

"JK Rowling's work has fostered an appreciation in literature in millions of readers worldwide, and her imagination and creativity have captivated an entire generation," said Michael MacGrath, Auditor, UCD Literary and Historical Society. "She receives the James Joyce Award for her tremendous contribution to the field of literature, both in terms of the quality of her work and the impact that it has made over the last decade."

A History of Music – Professor John F. Larchet

Last year marked the 40th anniversary of the death of Professor John Francis Larchet, one of the most influential people in Music in Ireland. In 1921, Larchet created a full Music Department for University College Dublin and remained a professor of music there until 1958. Larchet also worked with the Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM) from 1920 to 1955, where he was Professor of Harmony and Counterpoint. There was no statutory retirement age, you worked on if you were "willing and able" and Larchet worked until he was 74 years.

Born in Dublin on 13 July 1884, John F. Larchet studied with Michele Esposito at the Royal Irish Academy of Music. His enthusiasm for Irish traditional music led to his appointment by Lady Gregory as Musical Director of the Abbey Theatre in 1907, where he was affectionately known as 'The Doc'. Larchet worked with the leading Irish literary figures such as W.B. Yeats and Synge.

It was a time of idealism and experiment, as Yeats' essays, published under the title Explorations, on the Irish dramatic movement from 1901-1919 reveal. Every aspect of theatre, which included the role of songs and singers, was imaginatively reassessed.

In December 1913, Larchet married Madeleine Moore and they had three children, Máire, Síle and Gerard. He and Madeleine met at the RIAM, where both were piano students of Michele Esposito. In the same year, Larchet was appointed choir Master and Organist to the Jesuit church in Gardiner Street. When Larchet was 29, he was conferred with a Licentiate by the RIAM, in recognition of his astounding work in the teaching of harmony, counterpoint and composition. He was the first person to receive this honour and in 1925 was appointed senior vice-president of the R.I.A.M.

Larchet's expertise was much sought after as the Department of Education appointed Larchet as Director of Music for secondary schools. He set up a graded examinations system for school choirs and orchestras. In 1923, he was appointed Music Advisor to the Irish Army, to create and develop an Army School of Music.

Larchet was conductor of the Dublin Amateur Orchestral Society, and a member and eventually chairman of the Music Sub-Committee of the Royal Dublin Society (RDS). The RDS ran Chamber Music Concerts when there were no such concerts in Dublin and engaged Esposito, to give piano recitals. The Hallé Orchestra from Manchester came to play there in March 1926. The evening concert was held at 6.30 pm and the B & I boat was delayed specially to take the players back.

In 1954, Dr. and Mrs. Larchet were conferred with Honorary Degrees of Music by N.U.I. He was decorated with the Order of



Commendatore of the Italian Republic in recognition of his work in advancing Italian music in Dublin. He lectured at the Italian Institute in Fitzwilliam Square on Italian Composers and on the Operas being performed in the Italian season by the Dublin Grand Opera Society – now Opera Ireland. He was the first President of the DGOS.

One of his great ambitions was to develop a "School of Irish composers" and he was very influential in doing this.

Not long before he died he said to his daughter Síle, "The Lord has been very good to me – I have had two great loves in my life – your mother and music". He died on 10 August 1967 leaving a wealth of works for orchestra, violin, piano and arrangements of songs.



A tribute to Colm Tobin

Colm Tobin was born in Clare to a watchmaker father and a mother who was professionally trained musician. It was natural that his life should be marked by a deep attachment to Clare, an interest in the world of commerce and an abiding love of music.

He was a longstanding member of the Clare Association and its Chair for twenty years. The nomination of the Clare Person of the Year and the presentation of the award brought him both much work and much pleasure. Fittingly he married a Clare woman, Emer Foley from Carrigaholt.

His love of music found expression in his frequent attendance at the ProCathedral to hear Mass sung by the Palestrina Choir. He was also a constant presence at the National Concert Hall and indeed attended a concert there the evening before his final admission to hospital.

Colm trained as a National Teacher at St Patrick's Drumcondra and taught for some time in Ballyfermot Boys School. While there he took an Evening Arts Degree at UCD where he became a member of the Student Representative Council. Jobs were scarce in those days and while Colm himself was securely employed he typically showed his concern for others by setting up a service to secure summer

work for undergraduates, travelling to the UK and the Continent in search of opportunities.

A few years later he secured an Honours Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology. It was natural therefore that in 1970 he should become a member of the team in the Careers Guidance at UCD where he became Head of Service in 1991 and where he worked until his recent death.

Colm enjoyed his work. He enjoyed spending time with students and met them individually to advise and guide them. Equally he enjoyed meeting people in the world of business in Ireland and overseas, interesting them in the graduates of the college, making smooth arrangements for their recruiting visits and advising students how best to carry themselves at job interviews. He and his staff supplied the students with an abundance of informative material culled from many sources.

Unknown to those in College, Colm had medical conditions, which required major surgery and continued medical care. His silence about this was truly remarkable. He was in fact at work the day before his admission to St Vincent's Hospital where he died some 10 days later, cared for to the end by Emer.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.



Please Talk... goes national

Pictured at the national launch of 'Please Talk' are some of the Students Union representatives from all seven Irish Universities who have joined forces to encourage students to seek support through the Please Talk student support campaign.

Please Talk, the student support campaign encourages students who are struggling with

anxiety to perceive seeking help as a sign of strength rather than a sign of weakness, to make contact with the support services available. The campaign was initially introduced in UCD in early 2007, due to its continued success, the campaign has been adopted by all seven Universities.

UCD Community Musical

UCD students & staff performing in West Side story



O' Reilly Hall UCD was transformed into a glamorous Broadway Theatre from 14-16 February 2008 when UCD students and staff collaborated in a production of Leonard Bernstein's modern reworking of Romeo and Juliet, West Side Story.

The first show of its kind at UCD, West Side Story was produced by Student Advisor Anna Farrell and presented to a packed house at each of its four performances. The entire cast and production team was made up of talented volunteers from across the campus community. This entertainment environment allowed students and staff alike to reveal musical and theatrical talents, some of which may never have been exposed prior to this production.

Director of the musical, UCD Graduate Aoife Brady described West Side Story as 'one of the most challenging musical theatre performances ever'. The musical survives as one of the Broadway classics due to its timeless story and intensity of characters. UCD's actors and crew achieved in conveying this urban love story in four performances over two days.

The musical was initiated to encourage community building throughout the University.

Many of the university's societies and clubs were active in the musical's organisation, including DramSoc, UCD Symphony Orchestra, PhotoSoc and FilmSoc. This spirit of co-operation illustrated in the musical's production has proven that an atmosphere of community is possible in a largely populated university.

Dr Martin Butler, Vice-President for Students, who was heavily involved with the project said 'The Musical was a great success. It succeeded in bringing staff and students together in an event, which showcased the best of UCD. It created an event that illustrated the energy and creativity that the university holds'. Dr Butler also added that 'the sponsors of the production were delighted with its success'.

The proceeds of West Side Story went to UCD Volunteers Overseas. This organisation gives university students an opportunity to visit developing parts of the world to get actively involved with charity work during the summer break.

Due to the success of this year's production those involved in the musical have already begun planning for a similar event next year.

Regulating Everything

Professor Colin Scott, Professor of EU Regulation and Governance, at the UCD School of Law, delivered his Inaugural Lecture, 'Regulating Everything', to an invited audience in the Global Irish Institute on 26 February 2008.

In his lecture, Professor Scott noted that Ireland is the world leader in creating regulatory agencies, surpassing even the United States in recent years. According to Professor Scott, a recent study by the thinktank TASC concluded that there were over 450 state agencies in Ireland. And an official report published in 2007 identified 215 bodies in Ireland exercising statutory regulatory powers (including local bodies and ministries).

Professor Scott is currently involved in research at University College Dublin which shows that among these bodies there are more than fifty central public agencies dedicated to regulation and operating at arms-length both from government and from those they oversee.

He went on to argue that we must recognise the unworkability of 'megaregulation' and substitute it with 'metaregulation'. For a copy of the inaugural lecture visit www.ucd.ie/law



Professor Colin Scott

Inaugural lecture – Professor Petra Ahrweiler

On Wednesday 20 February 2008 UCD Smurfit School hosted the inaugural lecture of Professor Petra Ahrweiler. In 2007 Petra joined the National Institute of Technology Management at UCD Business Schools. She previously worked as a Professor of Sociology and was vice-head at the Research Centre Media & Politics University of Hamburg. Prior to Hamburg, she was a senior lecturer at the faculty of Sociology, University of Bielefeld with strong research linkage to the Institute for Science and Technology Studies where she managed, conducted and coordinated various EU projects. Currently Petra is on the management board for the EU-funded research project, "Network Models, Governance and R & D Collaboration Networks (NEMO)." Petra is a PhD Science & Technology Graduate of Free University Berlin.

Her inaugural lecture addressed research on innovation policy-making, how technological innovation takes place in modern knowledge economies, understanding these innovation networks, their structure and function. The lecture concluded with setting out a framework for future research within the area of technology and innovation management at UCD Business Schools.



Pictured (l-r): Prof Tom Begley, Dean UCD Smurfit School, Prof Petra Ahrweiler & Paul Haran, Principal UCD College of Business & Law.

Culture of Control

"All of the institutions that they ran fed into a culture of authority and a culture of control" argued Stephen Boyle of UCD's Literary and Historical Society, who was awarded the Individual award at the final of the Irish Times Debate 2008. Boyle gave a winning speech, which opposed the motion that 'This house believes that Ireland owes a debt of gratitude to the Catholic Church'. This year's event was hosted by UCD Law Society and chaired by Éamon Gilmore, leader of the Labour Party. Also opposing the motion were Trinity duo Chris Kissane and David Kenny who were presented with the team award.

Boyle argued that the Catholic Church exercised control by regulating how people should live, relying on methods such as censorship and control. They had tried to assert a moral authority on Ireland, and anyone found opposing this was morally denounced from the pulpit. This culture of control facilitated the cover up of incidences of abuse, which in turn allowed the church to maintain their position as a moral authority figure. While all of the winner's on the evening were opposed to the motion, there were lively contributions in defence of the church from the floor and those proposing the motion argued that Irish citizens had allowed the church to take this control.

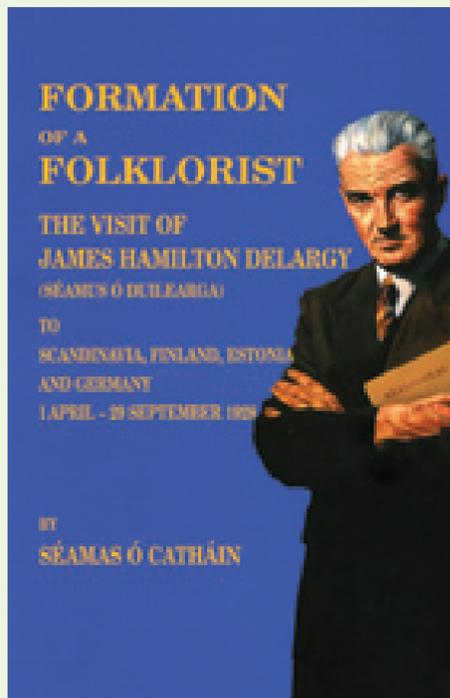
Many also argued that the church had filled a void in Irish Society and the fact that 87 per cent of the Irish population define themselves as Catholic was noted on several occasions.

A total of twelve speakers took part in the final; the three winners will represent Ireland on a three-week debating tour of the US.

Pictured is Stephen Boyle of UCD's Literary and Historical Society who won the Irish Times Debate 2008 held in UCD.

The runner's up on the team side were Ross McGuire and Marguerite Carter of UCD Law Society, who opposed the motion and the individual runner-up was John Gallagher of TCD's Historical Society, who supported the motion.





Séamus Ó Duilearga - Formation of a folklorist

Published by the Folklore Council of Ireland, **Formation of a Folklorist - The visit of James Hamilton Delargy to Scandinavia, Finland, Estonia and Germany – was officially launched by Dr TK Whitaker in Newman House, Dublin.**

James Hamilton Delargy (Séamus Ó Duilearga), who was Professor of Irish Folklore at University College Dublin from 1946-1971, is arguably one of the best known Irish scholars abroad.

He was a founding member of the Folklore of Ireland Society (1926), the Irish Folklore Institute (1930-1934) and the Irish Folklore Commission (1935-1970). Today, the work of these bodies continues under the auspices of

the National Folklore Collection in the UCD Delargy Centre for Irish Folklore at University College Dublin.

But just how did James Hamilton Delargy, whose initial training was in the field of celtic studies rather than folklore, become a luminary who masterminded the creation of one of the world's best folklore collections?

"It was at a lecture by the Norwegian folklorist Reidar Christiansen in 1927, that Delargy was introduced to Carl Wilhelm von Sydow, a Swedish folklorist who was in Ireland to learn Irish. The following year Delargy left Ireland for Sweden to learn more about the study of folklore," said Ó Catháin. "This is how Delargy

began his journey into the study of folklore and met with the major international folklorists who would influence his work."

Written by Séamas Ó Catháin, former Professor of Irish Folklore at University College Dublin. In the book, Ó Catháin presents Delargy's diary, his personal notes, and his correspondence with leading experts in the field and other close advisors in Ireland and abroad, to explain Delargy's trajectory in his own words.

This publication gives an indepth insight into Séamus Ó Duilearga's passion for folklore through Professor Ó Catháin's knowledge of the subject and his insight into Ó Duilearga's work.

UCD's Graduate School of Arts and Celtic Studies Graduate Symposium

Lively debate and innovative new research characterised UCD's Graduate School of Arts and Celtic Studies symposium held on 5 March 2008 at UCD Humanities Institute of Ireland (HII). This annual event showcases a sample of the exciting and diverse range of graduate research currently under way within the Graduate School of Arts and Celtic Studies. Thirteen doctoral students presented papers on their research projects. Amongst the topics addressed by speakers were Ireland and its Polish newcomers, beauty and luxury in renaissance Venice, the Harvard mission and the formation of Irish cultural identity, melancholy in contemporary German literature, and Seán Lemass's attitude to Irish partition. The symposium aims both to provide

research students with a platform from which to communicate their work and to develop students' communication and presentation skills, especially in an inter-disciplinary environment. UCD President Dr Hugh Brady congratulated the speakers on the quality of their papers. Tom Boland, chief executive of the Higher Education Authority, who chaired a session at the symposium, highlighted the government's commitment to investing in research across all disciplines. He stressed the importance of deepening links between policy makers and researchers. Events such as the graduate symposium, he stated, were a valuable way of enhancing communication between academics and policy-makers.

Pictured at the Symposium are Dr Hugh Brady, President of UCD, Professor Mary E Daly, Principal of the UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies, Professor Kathleen James-Chakraborty, Head of the School of Art History and Cultural Policy, Dr Marc Caball, Director of the UCD Graduate School in Arts and Celtic Studies and research graduate students in the UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies who presented a paper at the symposium.



Swedish Ambassador visits Delargy Centre

Pictured (l-r) are Professor Liam Mac Mathúna (Head of the School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics), Swedish Ambassador Mr Claes Ljungdahl and Críostóir Mac Cárthaigh (School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics), on the ambassador's visit to the UCD Delargy Centre for Irish Folklore and National Folklore Collection on 27 February 2008. The Centre has strong Scandinavian, in particular Swedish, connections. The painting on the left shows the noted folklore scholar Carl Wilhelm von Sydow (father of the well-known actor Max von Sydow), a pivotal figure in inspiring and guiding the establishment of the Irish Folklore Commission in 1935. Von Sydow was a fluent speaker and writer of Irish, and the Centre has a large collection of photographs taken by him on his many visits to Ireland in the early 1920s.

Irish European Law Forum

The eleventh annual Irish European Law Forum was held in January in Newman House. This conference is held under the auspices of the UCD School of Law. Its objective is to provide an opportunity for academics and practitioners to engage and exchange views on EU law. Leading academics present papers on their research to an expert audience of their peers, in order to stimulate scholarly debate on EU law.

This year's theme was 'Constitutionalisation: in search of more effective human rights protection in Europe.' An international panel of speakers dealt with the challenges facing the European Court of Human Rights.



Front row (l-r): Dr. Maurice Manning, Dr. Gerard Hogan SC, Mr. John O'Dowd, Dr. Marie-Luce Paris-Dobozy, Mr. Donncha O'Connell, Prof Alastair Mowbray, Mr. Ercus Stewart SC.

Back row (l-r): Prof. Imelda Maher, Prof Takis Tridimas, Mr. Colm O'Connell, Prof William Binchy, Ms. Suzanne Egan



Celebrating cross-border relationships

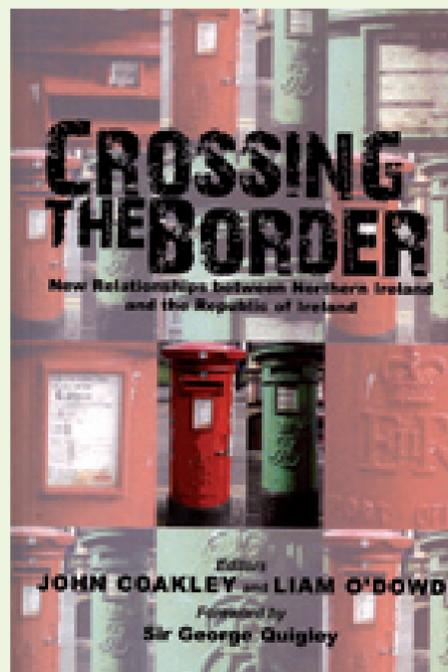
Crossing the Border: New Relationships between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, a new book which assesses the development of cross-border relationships, the opportunities they present, and the obstacles that continue to limit north-south collaboration was officially launched by An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern TD on 21 February 2008 at Newman House, Dublin.

"Tracing the development of co-operation, from the earlier part of the twentieth century when North and South developed along very different paths; through the troubles and to the establishment of a lasting peace under the Good Friday Agreement, this book is an invaluable tool for anyone interested in this area," said An Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern.

Published by Irish Academic Press, the book is based on a major collaborative project between Queen's University, Belfast and University College Dublin (UCD) which involved up to 40 researchers from Ireland and abroad.

Professor John Coakley, UCD Institute for British-Irish Studies, one of the co-editors of the book alongside Professor O'Dowd, Queens University Belfast, pointed out that although

cross-border cooperation is now taken for granted, it was not always so. "In fact", he suggested that "for much of the twentieth century, relations across the border were so frosty that the term 'cold war' might not have been an exaggeration".



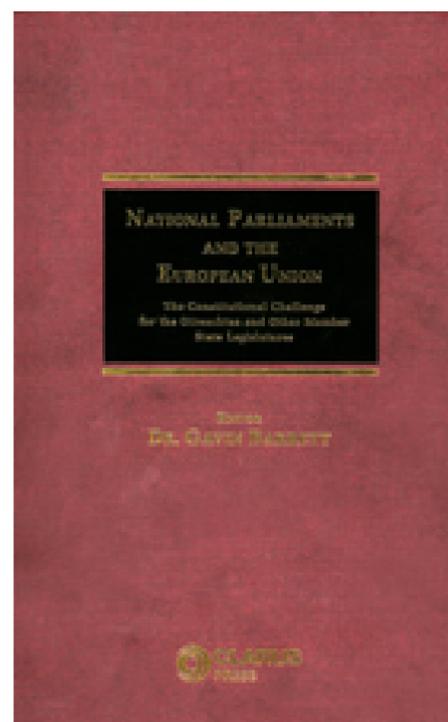
The constitutional challenge for EU member state legislatures

A considerable transfer of legislative and decision making powers from member states to European Union level in a broad range of policy fields has occurred since the signing of the Treaty of Rome in 1957. This transfer of law-making power has generated a number of conundrums, for both the EU member states and for the European Union itself, according to Dr Gavin Barrett, UCD School of Law.

In a new book, National Parliaments and the European Union, edited by Dr Barrett, political, legal and state experts reflect on national parliaments and the European Union today, focusing on their success, or lack of success, in exercising control over national governments.

With an emphasis on areas of increasing salience, such as security and defence policy, asylum and immigration and justice and home affairs generally, the expert contributors to the book analyse the particular experience of Ireland and the Oireachtas. The book also examines the experiences of a number of other member state parliaments (including the UK, France, the Nordic States, the Netherlands and Slovenia) in confronting the same challenge.

"National Parliaments and the European Union" is published by Clarus Press.



The battle of ideas 1912 - 1986

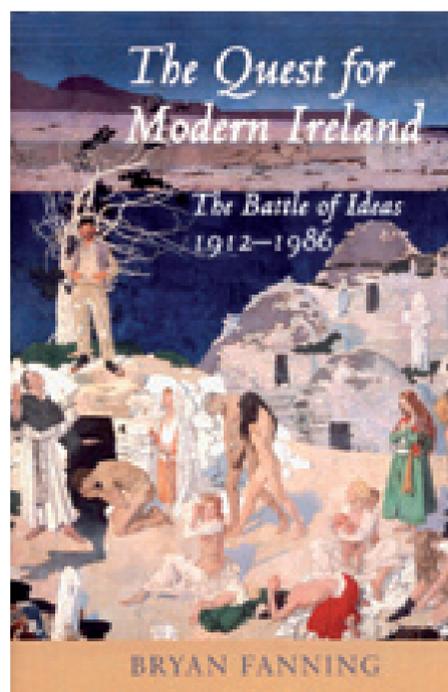
In a new book: The Quest for Modern Ireland - The Battle of Ideas 1912-1986, Dr Bryan Fanning, UCD School of Applied Social Science, examines the Irish periodicals where the social, political and economic debates that shaped modern Ireland were influentially debated. According to Dr Fanning, there were five periodicals which when taken together provide a broad sense of the intellectual politics that played out after the independence of the Irish State.

In The Bell, Sean O'Faoláin rallied liberal writers against the national myths which seemed to obscure the hidden Ireland of the 1940s. Many writers of non-fiction in The Bell were the ones whose own fiction was banned. The Bell presented compelling snapshots of everyday life in Irish society. O'Faoláin insisted the radical change in thinking that was really needed actually came down to being able to speak clearly about real problems and everyday life.

Ireland's first Irish journal of sociology, Christus Rex was launched in 1947. And although this periodical came from the conservative Catholic perspective, it nevertheless grappled with problems of emigration, rural decline and how Ireland might come to terms with social change. In Administration, civil servants sought to rise to the challenge laid down by T.K Whitaker, the co-architect with Sean Lemass of post-1950s modernisation.

The Jesuit journal Studies which was founded in 1912 had close ties to UCD. Influential contributors included Tom Kettle, Michael Tierney, George O'Brien, Patrick Lynch

and Garrett Fitzgerald. It fostered a long-running engagement between liberalism and Catholicism ignored, according to Fanning, within 'standard' accounts of Irish modernisation. For instance, during the 1940s clerics cited The Road to Serfdom by Frederick Hayek whilst economists sometimes invoked papal encyclicals to do the same. From 1977, in The Crane Bag poets and philosophers led by Richard Kearney placed what he called the Irish mind on the couch in an effort to make sense of the Northern conflict.

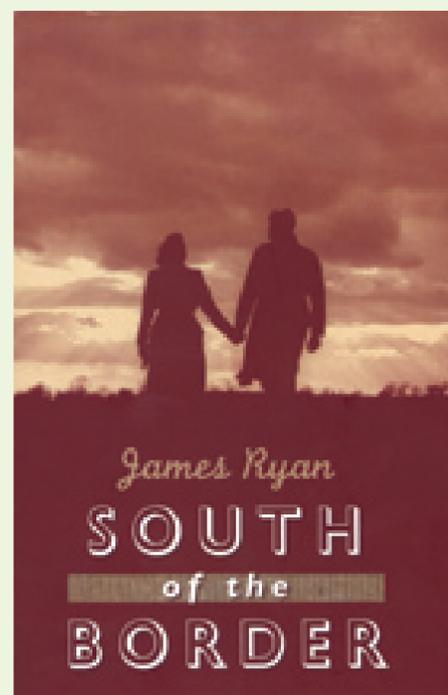


South of the Border

At the launch of James Ryan's latest book South of the Border, Ciaran Benson spoke of the author's use of description of smells to conjure up the sense of place and time. "The rank scent of the geranium spindling out of a free-standing cachepot beside the front door, gave way to a whiff of Brasso..." evokes memories or musings of our grandmothers' houses in the frugal forties. And, for those of us with no memories and little knowledge of this period, Ryan's book opens up a world that is rarely described in such illustrated detail. The setting and characters are beautifully crafted. James Ryan gives us a great read as he walks us through living rooms and country lanes with such care that we are left with lingering images.

The young Matt has just qualified with his teaching degree and finds himself in the small town of Rathisland in the midlands. In a country where the European clash between fascism and communism takes on its own brand of ex-colonial conflict, the players in Rathisland are suspicious, paranoid, biased and often bullying. The characters of the priest, the landlady, the school principal, the IRA sympathiser all provide a backdrop against which Matt has to grow up. At the same time he meets Madelene, an English evacuee and experiences the confused emotions of first love. Hardly surprising that he himself sometimes acts furtively and in an environment where much is left unsaid, ends up acting impulsively and perhaps inappropriately.

South of the Border is a compelling story, told from the perspective of a young man who is like an innocent abroad. We stay with Matt as he follows his compulsive course of action, empathising with his motives but concerned about the consequences. In the end, when he looks back, we see how the tale has had an impact on his life and are left liking him.



An Cumann Gaelach celebrates 100 years

The Cumann Gaelach in UCD is a tradition that has been passed on through the generations. Fathers and mothers, sons and daughters have all been members. One hundred years of the Cumann Gaelach was celebrated this year on 27 February 2008 in St. Helen's Radisson SAS Hotel, Booterstown.

The respected auditors of the society over its hundred-year span include political figures and learned scholars with Cearbhall Ó Dálaigh, Tomás de Bhaldraithe, and Dónall Ó Móráin amongst them. The current co-auditors Andrew Ó Faoláin and Jack Ó Leocháin have achieved great success in this centenary year. The University's Seachtain na Gaeilge welcomed guests such as Des Bishop, Hector Ó hEochagáin and Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh as honorary Gaeilgeoirs. Judging by this year's success the Cumann Gaelach has safely secured its place in the University as a crucial part in both University life and in the language's future.

Alumni students and current students of the University were present at the event which added to the both nostalgic and triumphant ambiance.

Pictured (l-r) An tOllamh Mícheál Ó Dochartaigh, Cathaoireach Bord na Gaeilge, Clár Ní Bhuachalla, Oifigeach Gaeilge Bhord na Gaeilge, Jack Ó Leocháin, Comh-Reachtair an Chumann Ghaelaigh, An tAire Pobal Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta Éamonn Ó Cuív, Aindriú Ó Faoláin, Comh-reachtair an Chumainn Ghaelaigh, Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh, Aodhán Ó Deá, Leas-Reachtair an Chumainn Ghaelaigh.

The commemoration of the Cumann Gaelach represents the vibrant contribution that the society has made to the University's development and evolution.

Both the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Éamon Ó Cuív and the sports commentator Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh were present as guest speakers at the event.

Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh, in a passionate and inspiring speech made reference to the development of the Irish language and the

vital part the Cumann Gaelach has played in successfully promoting the language on campus. He also motivated the audience in their attitude towards the language in the future. He urged the audience to cultivate their passion for the language. Mr Ó Muircheartaigh praised young people who were working towards the language's revitalization and added that he had never seen the language in such bloom.

Minister Ó Cuív spoke about his own relationship with the Cumann Gaelach.

He recounted stories about his grandfather, former President of Ireland, Éamonn De Valera and the passionate interest he had in the society. He also paid tribute to certain members of the Cumann Gaelach present at this year's event, who had also celebrated the society's fifty year commemoration also.

The event was sponsored by Bord na Gaeilge, Foras na Gaeilge and Raidió na Gaeltachta.



Comóradh 100 bliain An Chumann Ghaelaigh

Traidisiún curtha ar aghaidh ó ghlúin go glúin. Athaireacha agus máithreacha, mic agus iníonacha mar bhaill ann. Rinneadh céiliúradh ar chéad bliain an Chumann Ghaelaigh i mblia na 27 Feabhra in Óstan Radisson, Baile an Bhóthair.

Ba dhaoine spéisiúla agus éifeachtacha iad iar-reachtairí an chumainn. I measc na ndaoine bhí polaiteoirí agus scoláirí ar nós Cearbhall Ó Dálaigh, Tomás de Bhaldraithe agus Dónall Ó Móráin. Bhí rath ar obair an chumainn agus Aindriú Ó Faoláin agus Jeaic Ó Leocháin mar reachtairí i mblia. D'éirigh go hiontach le Seachtain na Gaeilge na hOllscoile agus chuir an cumann fáilte roimh aionna ar nós fuirseoir le Gaeilge Des Bishop, láithreoir teilifíse Hector Ó hEochagáin agus an tUasal Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh a thácaigh le himeachtaí na seachtaine. Is soléir ón méid a baineadh amach i mblia go bhfuil ról cinntithe ag an gCumann sa gColáiste mar chuid riachtanach de shaol na hOllscoile agus de thodhchaí na teanga araon.

Bhí idir iar-mhíc léinn an choláiste agus mic léinn COBÁC i láthair ag an ócáid. Chuir sé seo le hatmaisféar maoithneach agus ceiliúrtha na hoíche.

Pictured back row (l-r): Diarmuid Bairéad, Dónal Ó Súilleabháin, Aodhán Ó Deá, Jack Ó Leocháin, Aindriú Ó Faoláin, Pól Ó Duinn, Eoghan Ó Murchada, (Front row left to right) Cian Taaffe, Aoife Breathnach, Treasa Ní Cholmáin, Louise Nic Aodh Bhuí, Gillian Ní Chuinneáin, Clár Nic Seoin, Niall Ó hUiginn, Eoin Ó Murchú. Coiste Reatha 100ú Seisiún an Chumainn Ghaelaigh, An Coláiste Ollscoile Baile Átha Cliath.

Seasann an comóradh don mhéid fhuinnimh a thug an Cumann do fheabhsú agus cur chun cinn na hollscoile.

Ba iad an tAire Ghnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus na Gaeltachta, Éamon Ó Cuív agus an tráchtair spóirt Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh na haoichainteoirí ag an ócáid.

Thug an tUasal Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh caint a bhí paiseanta chomh maith le

hinspioráideach, a rinne trácht do fheabhsú na teanga agus an ról lárnach atá ag an gCumann Gaelach an teanga a chur chun cinn ar an gcampas. Spreag sé an lucht féachana meon dearfach a thabhairt faoin teanga sa todhchaí. D'iarr sé ar mhuintir COBÁC a spéis sa teanga a shaothrú. Mhol sé na daoine óga a bhí ag obair ar son athbheochan na teanga agus thug sé faoi deara nach bhfaca sé an teanga faoin mbláth céanna riamh.

Labhair an tAire Ghnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta Éamon Ó Cuív faoin mbaint atá aige féin leis an gCumann. D'inis sé scéalta faoina sheanathair Éamonn De Valera agus an spéis a bhí aige i gcúrsaí Gaeilge na hollscoile. Thug sé omós do bhaill an Chumann Ghaelaigh a bhí i láthair ar an oíche agus ag an gcomóradh leathchéad freisin.



Celtic Catalysts – a Rising Star

Celtic Catalysts, a UCD chemistry spin-out and a leading supplier of chiral products and technology to the Fine Chemical, Pharmaceutical and Biotech industries was declared the international winner of the "Rising Star Award" at the 2008 BioIndustry Association (Scotland) Thistle Bioscience Forum.

Celtic Catalysts was among four Irish biotech companies, all members of IBEC's Irish BioIndustry Association (IBIA), who took part in the international "Rising Stars Showcase" competition along with eight other companies from Scotland and Israel. Each of the participants pitched their companies and development strategies to a panel of experts and an invited audience before Celtic Catalysts was announced the overall winner following

a confident pitch by Kevin Dalton, Celtic Catalysts' Sales Director.

Professor Declan Gilheany and Dr Brian Kelly co-founded Celtic Catalysts in 2000 as a spin-out from UCD's School of Chemistry and Chemical Biology. Celtic Catalysts currently employs a staff of 17 and is headquartered in NovaUCD, the Innovation and Technology Transfer Centre at UCD.

Celtic Catalysts' focus is on the area of chiral synthesis and it has developed a comprehensive portfolio of intellectual property and carved out a uniquely strong niche for itself in the specialised area of P-chiral technology. This technology can be used in the production of a range of drugs, which are particularly prevalent in anti-viral and anti-cancer therapeutic areas.

Pictured (l-r); Kevin Dalton, Sales Director and Dr Brian Kelly, CEO, Celtic Catalysts, winner of "Rising Star Award" at the 2008 BioIndustry Association (Scotland) Thistle Bioscience Forum.



ChangingWorlds and gsmExchange.com sign deals with Vodafone

Two UCD companies have recently signed commercial deals with Vodafone.

ChangingWorlds a UCD computer science spinout and the global expert in intelligent content discovery and subscriber intelligence for the Mobile Internet signed a seven figure deal with Vodacom during the recent Enterprise Ireland Trade Mission to South Africa. Vodacom is one of Vodafone's most significant operations and is the number one mobile operator in South Africa with over 23 million customers.

Vodacom will deploy ChangingWorlds' entire ClixSmart™ Intelligent Portal Platform over its mobile portal, Vodafone Live! This will incorporate ChangingWorlds' suite of intelligent content discovery and personalization solutions for mobile data as well as sophisticated portal management. Based on advanced artificial intelligence technology, the ClixSmart™ Platform will significantly enhance mobile content relevance and will optimise the user experience of Vodafone Live! resulting in a greater ARPU (Average Revenue Per User) for Vodacom.

ChangingWorlds, which was co-founded in 1999 by Professor Barry Smyth and Paul Cotter, developed its ClixSmart™ technology as part of an extensive research programme in the Smart

Media Institute of UCD's School of Computer Science and Informatics. ChangingWorlds, which now employs over 120 people, maintains a strong strategic link with UCD as its ongoing R&D activities are taking place in NovaUCD, the Innovation and Technology Transfer Centre at UCD.

In a separate development Vodafone has commissioned gsmExchange.com, a web-based trading company founded by Essam Bishara and located at NovaUCD, to develop a business-to-business platform that enhances the purchase and distribution of their mobile handsets worldwide. The internet-based platform is called the 'Vodafone Spot Market Trading Platform'. It operates very much like a 'Commodity Stock Exchange', where offers and requests are matched up, and the buyer and seller can agree on the terms and conclude their transactions, quickly and efficiently online.

The platform will ensure that Vodafone operating companies encountering unexpected high demands for particular handsets will have an internal exchange or channel to turn to when sourcing stock to meet these demands. In turn, Vodafone operating companies that find themselves over-stocked will use the platform to promote their stock to other Vodafone operating companies worldwide.

Pictured (l-r); Ian Finnegan, EMEA Sales Director, ChangingWorlds; Micheál Martin TD, Minister Enterprise, Trade and Employment and Vincent Ryan, VP of International Sales & Marketing, ChangingWorlds.



US Elections 2008

The UCD Clinton Institute for American Studies and the US Embassy co-hosted a panel discussion on the US elections in the US Embassy, Ballsbridge, Dublin, on 06 February 2008. The panel which included representatives from across the political spectrum was chaired by RTÉ Broadcaster, Ryan Tubridy. On the discussion panel were: Professor Liam Kennedy, UCD Clinton Institute for American Studies; Linda O'Shea-Farren, Solicitor; Professor Steven Knowlton, DCU; Constantin Gurdgiev, Editor, Business and Finance; and Martina Muldoon, DCU. The panel voiced their opinions on the key issues associated with the election. These included the economy, foreign policy and the war in Iraq, and matters of leadership in both parties. There was considerable interest in the competition for the Democratic nomination, with discussion focusing on the merits and prospects of Senators Clinton and Obama, and

general agreement that this was one of the most exciting election campaigns in recent times, not least due to the unpredictability of outcomes.

Commenting on the importance of this election, Professor Liam Kennedy, Director of the UCD Clinton Institute for American Studies, noted: 'This has been a fascinating election campaign thus far, especially due to its unpredictability. This is due in part to the strong lineup of candidates, but also to the moving forward of primary and caucus dates and the shifting concerns of the electorate. The war in Iraq has moved down the list of concerns of most voters as the economy has moved up. At the same time, this unpredictable nature of the campaign has meant a dilution of the influence of activists, fundraisers and pundits.'



A straw poll of the audience at the US embassy event suggested overwhelming support for the Democratic candidates and there was follow up discussion on the strong Irish identification with

Democrats. The energetic discussion reflected the very high level of interest in this election among the Irish public.

Chasing the Flame:

Professor Samantha Power lectures on Sergio Vieira de Mello and the Fight to Save the World

'The most important man no-one knows.' Sergio Vieira de Mello was killed by the first major suicide bomb in Baghdad, Iraq in August 2003. He was not fatally injured initially, but bled to death as there were no tools or aid available to release him from under the rubble. De Mello spoke for three hours before he finally took his last breath.

Sergio Vieira de Mello chased headlines. Political conflict and unrest was his forte. His short life was crowded with stories of peace-talks and human rights, frustration and instability.

Despite having had years of experience carving out difficult peace deals with violent states his last posting was described as 'the toughest assignment of his career: UN envoy to Iraq'.

His negotiating skill lay in his ability to talk with violent leaders and attempt to develop and nurture a trust between him and the leader.

'He had long stopped believing that he could bring the solutions to a place's woes, but he had grown masterful at asking the questions that helped reveal constructive ideas'. Brazilian-born, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, de Mello has had a profound and permanent effect on the world's politics. De Mello grappled with such questions as 'When should killers be engaged, and when should they be shunned?'

Samantha Power told Sergio Vieira de Mello's story to an enraptured audience at the John Hume Institute for Global Irish Studies UCD. Samantha Power is the Anna Lindh Professor of Practice of Global Leadership and Public Policy Practice at Harvard University's School of Government. Until 07 March 2008 she was one of Barack Obama's chief advisors but her regrettable description of Hillary Clinton as a "monster" (made recently in the UK) prompted her to resign her role the day after she spoke at UCD. Her action was taken in order to prevent any fall-out from her comment on the Obama campaign.

Professor Power has been an active and vocal supporter of Barack Obama and described him as both a true visionary and a conduit for change. She drew parallels between de Mello's ethics and Obama's foreign policy. She also offered comparisons between them, saying they had 'similar dispositions towards the rest of the world'.

She suggested that there were lessons to be learned from Sergio Vieira de Mello's life and experience as humanitarian and a negotiator. She also considered that these lessons could be utilised and applied to American Foreign Policy. Reflecting upon de Mello's life and work she said that there were 'new models for success to be seen in Sergio's life'.

Samantha Power's book "Chasing the Flame" is published by Penguin and available throughout Ireland



'An fear is tábhachtaí nach bhfuil aithne ag éinne air'. Maraíodh Sergio Vieira de Mello sa chéad mórthuama féinmharaithe i mBagdad san Iraic i mí Lúnasa 2003. Ní raibh sé gortaithe go marfach i dtosach, ach fuair sé bás toisc nach raibh aon achmhainní chun é a scaoileadh ón mbrabhlach a raibh sé faoi. Mhair sé agus labhair sé ar feadh trí huair a chloig sular bhásaigh sé.

Lean Sergio Vieira de Mello na cinnlínte nuachta. Bhí bua aige i dtaobh coimhlint pholaitiúla. Bhí a shaol gearr lán le scéalta faoi chainteanna síocháin agus cearta daonna, frustrachas agus éagobhsaíocht pholaitiúla.

Cé go raibh an-chuid taithí aige le socruithe síocháin a bhaint amach le stáit fhoréigeanacha, dúradh gurb é an tasc deireanach a bhí aige ná 'an tasc is deacra dá shaol oibre: Toscaire Náisiún Aontaithe a chur chun na hIaráice.

Bhí scil chaibidíochta ar leith aige, bhí sé in ann ceannairí foréigeanacha a chur ag caint agus rinne sé iarracht muinín a chothú idir é féin agus an ceannaire.

'Stop sé i bhfad ó shin ag creidiúnt go raibh réitigh aige le fadhbanna na háite, ach d'fheabhsaigh sé an bua le ceisteanna a chur a chuidigh le smaointí cabharacha a nochtú'. Tá tionchar mór agus fadtéarmach fágtha i ndiaidh an tArd-Choimisinéir um Chearta Daonna Brasíleach de Mello ar pholaitíocht an domhain. Bhíodh de Mello ag streachailt le ceisteanna móra ar nós: 'Cathain ar cheart dul i dtreis le maraitheoirí, agus cathain ar cheart iad a sheachaint?'

D'inis Samantha Power scéal Sergio Vieira de Mello le lucht féachana a bhí faoi dhraíocht aici ag Institiúid John Hume don Staidéar Éireannach Domhanda COBÁC. Is í Samantha Power an tOllamh Anna Lindh ar chleachtas ar Cheannaireacht Domhanda agus Cleachtas Polasaí Poiblí ag Scoil Rialtais in Ollscoil Harvard. Bhí sí ar cheann de phríomhchomhairleoirí Barack Obama go dtí 07 Márta, ach de bharr cur síos thug sí ar Hillary Clinton mar 'ollphéist' (a lúadh le déanaí sa Bhreatain Mhór) bhí uirthi éirí as a post an lá tar éis di a bheith ag labhairt ag COBÁC. D'éirigh an bpost ionas nach mbeadh aon dhrochthionchar ag a ráiteas ar fheachtas Obama. Bhí an tOllamh Power mar thacadóir gníomhach de chuid Obama agus dúirt sí gur físi a bhí ann agus uirlis athraithe araon. Léirigh an tOllamh Power na cosúlachtaí idir eiticí de Mello agus polasaí eachtrach Barack Obama. Luaigh sé freisin 'go raibh cosúlachtaí le brath idir iompair na bhfear i dtreo an domhain'

Luaigh sí go raibh ceachtanna le foghlaim ó shaol Sergio Vieira de Mello agus a thaithí mar dhaonnúlach agus mar chaibidleoir.

Dúirt sí go mbeadh na ceachtanna oiriúnach agus iad a chur i bhfeidhm ar Pholasaí Eachtrach Mheiriceá. Ag machnamh ar shaol agus obair de Mello dúirt sí 'go raibh múnlaí ratha le brath i saol Sergio'.

Tá leabhar Samantha Power 'Chasing the Flame' foilsithe ag Penguin ar fáil ó cheann ceann na tíre.

UCD athlete Joanne Cuddihy makes the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games team

The Irish Olympic Team which will be competing in this year's Olympic Games in Beijing, China is continually growing and developing. There are now 19 Irish athletes who have qualified for the games. UCD Medicine student Joanne Cuddihy has gained her place on the Irish Olympic Team for the Olympics, which will be held during this summer. Sports scholarship recipient Joanne is the University's hopeful athlete for both the 400metres and

200metres races. Joanne holds the Irish record for the 400metre race, which she achieved at the World Athletic Championships in Osaka in 2007. She broke Karen Shinkin's long-standing Irish record in Osaka. Other athletes include UCD alumnus Derval O'Rourke. The Irish team will be competing in boxing, cycling, athletics, rowing, canoeing, shooting, sailing and swimming. There are ten more places to be filled before the team is officially announced.



UCD researchers to unlock the secrets of peak sporting performance

A multidisciplinary team from UCD have recently secured a grant of €95,000 from the Irish Institute of Sport to examine the biological basis of peak performance in sport. The team, led by Professor Giuseppe De Vito of the School of Physiotherapy and Performance Science, also includes Professor Colin Boreham, Director of the UCD Institute for Sport and Health, Dr. Brian Caulfield, Head of the School of Physiotherapy and Performance Science, and Associate Professor Philip Newsholme of the Conway Institute. The grant is the second of its type to be awarded to UCD in the past twelve months, the first being awarded to Professor Aidan Moran of the School of Psychology.

"Athletes need to achieve peak performance on a given day or days – an objective which may be planned for years in advance", said Professor De Vito. "The most critical time in this process is the final week or so before competition, when the amount of training tapers away to virtually nothing, allowing a 'supercompensation' in performance on competition day. However, we do not understand the biology of this complex process, and athletes often get the timing wrong. This research will allow us to unravel some of the biology of tapering, and should help the coach to optimise the process." Professor Boreham added "We are extremely lucky in Ireland to have a national Institute of Sport which provides support for this kind of research, helping to underpin best practice and improve performances of Irish athletes on the world stage. I am naturally delighted that our research team was chosen for the contract, reflecting as it does the growing reputation of UCD in Irish Sport and Exercise Sciences".

The project, which will involve athletes and coaches from Athletics Ireland, will start in September 2008 and will last for three years.

Pictured (l-r) are Mr. Sean Kelly, Executive Chairman of the Irish Institute of Sport, inspects the Human Performance Laboratory with Prof. Colin Boreham (Director), Prof. Philip Newsholme and Prof. Giuseppe De Vito on a recent visit to the UCD Institute for Sport and Health.



UCD wins all in Dublin Boat Race 2008

UCD rowed to an unprecedented victory winning all four races in the 2008 Dublin Boat Race and bringing home the 60th Gannon Cup on Saturday, 22 March 2008. Large crowds gathered to watch the annual boat races (from O'Connell Bridge to Guinness's Brewery on the River Liffey) between the rival boat clubs of UCD and Trinity College Dublin.

"These victories are a testament to the current upward cycle of the UCD Boat Club, and to the hard work and dedication of the crews, coaches, and committees supporting this trend," said J Brooke, Captain of the UCD Boat Club. "I see great successes in the future of this club, and the focus now shifts to the coming season and the opportunities it presents."

The day's boat racing began with the Ladies' Maiden Eights. The UCD women finished up

to three quarters of a length ahead of their competition to claim the Sally Moorehead Novice Trophy. In the second race, the Men's Maiden Eights, UCD claimed their third win out of four in the Dan Quinn Shield (first introduced in 2004).

On the day, UCD also retained the 29th Corcoran Cup with their 18th win for UCD Women's Senior Eights. The team captained by Emma Doyle rowed to victory by two and a half lengths.

The final race of the day was the much anticipated 60th Gannon Cup race for Men's Senior Eights. After the first 800m, Trinity led by half a length, but the UCD team came through to claim the final lead by three quarters of a length.

The Gannon Cup was introduced in memory of Ciaran Gannon, a native of Galway, who began his studies at University College Dublin

in 1933. Gannon was an enthusiastic oarsman and a member of the Maiden Eight that were unbeaten in 1934. In 1937, he was elected Club Captain and during his captaincy University College Dublin Boat Club achieved great success. The Club went on to win the Wylie Cup, and the Leander and Metropolitan Cups. In 1939, Ciaran Gannon graduated Medicine and Surgery. He then joined the Royal Army Medical Corps where he served as a captain in Egypt and India before going to Burma where he was killed in 1944.

The UCD winning teams were as follows:

Gannon Cup UCD team: David Neale, Colm Pierce, Tom Duggan, Sean O' Neill, J.R Skelly, Damir Rasidovich, Thomas Doyle, Anthony English. Cox: Naoise Grisewood. Coaches: Colm Daly, Conor Walshe, Pat Gannon.

Corcoran Cup UCD Ladies Boat Club team: Emily Kearney, Fifi Monaghan, Emma Doyle, Brona McEntee, Naomi Fearon, Aisling Ryan, Susan Harkin, Deirdre Keane, Cox: Michelle Claffey, Coach: Tom Sullivan

Sally Moorehead Novice Ladies team: Neva Noone, Jenni Monohan, Roisin Harkin, Hannah Brady, Jenny Barnes, Anne-Ruth Benagh, Laura Reid, Bronwyn Lait, Cox: Karen Concannon, Coach: Pat Gannon

Dan Quinn Shield UCD team: Philip Craven, Kevin Kelly, Andrew Kane, Richard Murray, Darragh Coffey, Chris Barter, Peter Murphy, Joseph Murphy, Cox: Jennie Lynch, Coaches: Pat Gannon, Brian Barter, Ciaran Laird, Campbell Gradon.

UCD Boat Club was founded in 1918. It provided four of the Irish rowing team for the 1948 Olympics.



UCD claim back Rugby Colours

The 56th Rugby Colours match at Donnybrook on Thursday 06 March saw UCD cruise to a victory over their All-Ireland League Division Two opponents.

UCD were missing two of their back row, who were on representative duty for the Leinster A's. The team was nonetheless too strong for Dublin University whose hopes of back-to-back

UCD's Kevin Croke is tackled by Ciaran Condon of Dublin University at the 56th Colours Match, where UCD reclaimed the title. Photograph courtesy of Sportsfile

wins for the first time since 1995 were over in the first half.

Final score was UCD 50, Dublin University 20, with UCD back row player Kevin Croke crowned Man of the Match.



UCD win Inaugural Wheelchair Basketball Competition

UCD Students Union (UCDSU) in association with UCD Sports Centre and the Sport Section of the Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA) recently held the inaugural O2/UCDSU sponsored Wheelchair Basketball Competition, the first of its kind in a third level institute in Ireland. Vivian Rath, Welfare Officer of UCD Students' Union commented, "we in the Students' Union feel that participation in sports such as wheelchair basketball is a unique means of promoting disability awareness and a sport such as wheelchair basketball allows for the inclusion of all"

UCD was on winning form in the competition, which took the form of a mini-league (blitz) with four squads taking part on the day. UCDSU and the IWA provided one squad each. A third squad comprised of Students' Union officers from around the country, and a fourth from the general student body of UCD. Viv added, "UCDSU are very proud to see the Wheelchair Basketball competition reach such heights, as we have been campaigning on disability rights for many years now, and to see students from other institutions come to UCD to participate in such a wonderfully inclusive event is very heartening indeed"

Presently, UCD has a Wheelchair Basketball Team in Division 1 of the Irish Wheelchair Basketball League; UCD Students Jean Daly, Dan Hayden & Tom Kelly being three of the leading members' of this team.

Pictured is Mark Barry, Sports Development Officer, IWA



Pictured is Jean Daly, Psychology student and member of the UCD wheelchair basketball team.



Dual Purpose UCD Bowl hosts opening game of Eircom League

The UCD Bowl saw history in the making when UCD A.F.C. hosted Derry City in the opening game of the Eircom League on Friday, 07 March. In a unique sporting venture, UCD A.F.C joined their rugby counterparts in a ground sharing arrangement, having departed their home ground in Belfield Park at the end of last season after 29 years. The Bowl has been home for the UCD Rugby Club for many years and is the venue for the AIB All Ireland League Games.

Phase One of the development of UCD Bowl, completed in September 2007, was brought to fruition by a €1.25 million grant allocation from DAST Annual Sports Capital Grant Scheme. The balance of the funding was met by UCD, bringing total spend on the facility to €1.6million. The facilities have been radically

upgraded with seating increased from 840 to 1500, with further standing accommodation for 1500. The development also included the provision of additional turnstiles, spectator accommodation, press facilities, floodlights and dressing rooms, making the ground fully compliant with UEFA licensing requirements.

In developing the facility, UCD endeavours to deliver a high quality outdoor sports venue, complying with UEFA licensing and IRB standards in relation to the quality of the playing surface, while also meeting spectator expectations in terms of comfort and safety. The installation of sports lighting structures enables events to be held in the evening. The investment at the UCD Bowl complements the recent development of the Sports Pavilion, which provides four state-of-the-art dressing rooms strategically located to

serve the changing/recovery needs of athletes performing at the UCD Bowl and the National Hockey Stadium. Other facilities within the Sports Pavilion include two sets of ice baths, a physiotherapy area, showers and a referees changing room.

Future developments to the Bowl include a phased provision of additional covering, while a hard surface path will be constructed around the entire playing surface. This path will have the capacity to accommodate an additional 1500 spectators.

The UCD Bowl is centrally located on the university campus adjacent to the student and sports centres. Students, staff, graduates and sporting enthusiasts alike are encouraged to visit the venue and support the fixtures, rugby and soccer alike. It is envisaged tickets for future soccer games will be available



online from April 2008, and with 15 remaining home games this season, there is plenty of opportunity between now and November to view this facility.

UCD Fashion Show 2008



Male & Female Model of the Year - won by Paddy Schwanberg, a 4th year Business and Law student, and Katie Slattery, a 1st year Commerce student.

The 22nd UCD Fashion Show 2008, in aid of the Down Syndrome Centre, took place in February this year in the RDS Simmonscourt. The largest event of its kind in Europe this year's much anticipated show, did not disappoint. Staged to reflect the popularity of social networking in the student age group, scenes of student social life were projected on to two twenty-five foot screens which formed the backdrop of the stunning set at the show as over 140 student models sashayed down the neon yellow carpeted catwalk.

Since 1985, UCD students on the have been putting their business acumen, good looks and talent behind the annual Fashion Show, which down the years has raised substantial funds for Irish charities. This year, a cast of over 200 student organisers, models and dancers were joined by a group of young people with Down syndrome from Carmona Services to stage an unrivalled celebration of youth fashion, dance and live music.

Irish rock act, The Coronas opened the show with the chart-topping track "San Diego".

Dance performances were choreographed by Ireland's leading hip-hop street style specialist, Jane Shortall and one of the highlights of this year's show saw the introduction of a new element, the Bebo Band Competition, which was won by four-piece Dublin band, 'like Kings' who played two tracks from their forthcoming EP. Band member, Brian Nolan is a student in UCD. The Designer of the Year Award was presented to final year NCAD student, Laura Faughnan.



Eddie Jordan presents 'The Designer of the Year Award' to final year NCAD student, Laura Faughnan.



UCD students modelling at the UCD fashion show.



Hollywood A-lister Will Ferrell at UCD

Hollywood comedy star Will Ferrell who commands up to €20 million per movie received the James Joyce Award from the Literary and Historical Society (L&H) in University College Dublin in January. Over 1,000 students and guests attended the award ceremony.

Ferrell, who took to the stage in an Irish rugby kit, thrilled the massive audience with his acceptance speech and his responses to questions from the audience. "As you all know, I'm kind of a big deal, and this is a big deal," said the comedian accepting the award.

"As I perused my leather bound volumes of Ulysses, Finnegans Wake, Dubliners, and Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, standing in my mahogany library, a lot of feelings ran across my head, like, man, I should have read these books," he joked.

He continued to explain that indeed there are parallels between himself and the great literary author. "James Joyce spent a lot of his life living outside of Ireland. I too have spent a lot of time living outside of Ireland," he said.

Ferrell achieved global movie stardom in 2003, following his role in the hit comedy Elf in which he played an oversized elf. His role in the film helped turn a modest budget film into a surprise box-office smash.

He found critical acclaim, and a second Golden Globe Nomination, for his role in Stranger than Fiction in 2006, where he plays an IRS auditor, who suddenly becomes the subject of an ongoing commentary only he can hear.

In 2007, he starred as a high profile ice skater in the comedy film Blades of Glory which collected around €100 million at the box-office.

In his film roles, Ferrell had discovered comic gold in the world of sport. His next major release is Semi-Pro, where he plays the owner, coach and star player of a baseball team.

Previous recipients of the James Joyce Award include: former UN weapons inspector, Hans Blix; author, Bill Bryson; philosopher, Professor Richard Swinburne and actor, Ralph Fiennes. Over the years, every Taoiseach and President has addressed the society.

"Mr Ferrell receives the James Joyce Award for his tremendous contribution to the field of comedy entertainment, as a comedian, writer

and actor," said Michael McGrath, Auditor, 153rd Session, Literary and Historical Society, UCD.



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.